GOLF

YOUR LIFE, WELL PLAYED

MARCH 2023 / GOLF.COM

PING
G430
10.5
PARADYM
JAILBREAK AI
FORGED CARBON
Cleveland
RTX 6
ZIPCORE
Callaway
TaylorMade
SPEED POCKET
SRIXON
ZX5
Mk II
9.5
SCOTTY CAMERON
SUPER SELECT
NEWPORT 2+

CLUB TEST 2023

The Best Drivers,
Fairway Woods,
Hybrids, Irons, Wedges
& Putters
You Can Buy!

VISIT…

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

MORE
CARBON.
MORE
FARGIVENESS.
STEALTH2
CARBONWOOD

*Claim based on distance and increased MOI vs. Stealth drivers

TaylorMade

STEALTH 2

CARBONWOOD
STEALTH 2
FADE
SPEED POCKET
60X CARBON
TWIST FACE
LOWER

INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW **STEALTH 2 CARBONWOOD.** WITH MORE CARBON FOR LONG STRAIGHT DRIVES, EVEN WHEN YOU MISS THE SWEET SPOT.

THIS IS FARGIVENESS.

© 2023 TAYLOR MADE GOLF COMPANY, INC.

BIG SHOTS

GOLF.COM
MARCH 2023 / VOLUME 65, ISSUE 2

THE GEAR YOU NEED TO SCORE YOUR BEST
GOLF
CLUB TEST
20 23

37
Buy a Better Game!
Dig into our review of 95 of the newest and hottest pieces of golf gear with insights from our editors, equipment writers and the Golf Labs testing robot.

74 TaylorMade drivers
75 TaylorMade woods
60 PING irons
38 Callaway drivers
58 PING drivers
64 PXG
46 Cobra
69 Srixon
43 Cleveland
40 Callaway irons
79 Titleist
40 Odyssey
83 Scotty Cameron
52 Mizuno

Up Close with Cameron Smith / Josh Sens 17
Golden Rules: Jack Nicklaus' Pendulum Power Shift / Top 100 Teacher Jon Tattersall 25
Access: Inside the Titleist Performance Institute / Evan Rothman 26
Lessons: How to Take a Perfect Grip / Top 100 Teacher Sean Hogan 96

On the cover and this page: Jeffrey Westbrook; Styling: Miako Katoh

LET
YOUR
BEST
INVESTOR
OUT.

Unleash your investing potential with iShares ETFs and insights.

Get your share of progress.

iShares.
by BlackRock

Visit www.iShares.com to view a prospectus, which includes investment objectives, risks, fees, expenses and other information that you should read and consider carefully before investing. Risk includes principal loss. Prepared by BlackRock Investments, LLC, member FINRA. This information should not be relied upon as research, investment advice, or a recommendation regarding any products, strategies, or any security in particular. This material is strictly for illustrative, educational, or informational purposes and is subject to change. ©2022 BlackRock, Inc. All rights reserved. **iSHARES** and **BLACKROCK** are trademarks of BlackRock, Inc., or its subsidiaries in the United States and elsewhere. All other marks are the property of their respective owners. iCRMH0522U/S-2194822

PARADYM

A FIRST IN FORGING

A.I. DESIGNED FORGED 455 FACE CUP
FOR UNMATCHED FEEL & PERFORMANCE

Callaway
TUNGSTEN
PARADYM

DESIGNED BY A.I.

Paradym Irons don't sacrifice distance for feel. In fact, they amplify both. Paradym Shift Construction combines two industry firsts: a high-strength Forged 455 face with an all-new Speed Frame to deliver an exceptionally high level of feel in our longest forged irons.

Callaway
FORGED 455
A.I. DESIGNED FORGED 455 FACE CUP
HOLLOW BODY WITH SPEED FRAME CONSTRUCTION
THE NEW PARADYM IN PERFORMANCE

©2023 Topgolf Callaway Brands Corp. Callaway and the Chevron Device are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Topgolf Callaway Brands Corp.
*Longest forged iron claim based on robot testing using Apex DCB iron vs. Paradym iron.

PARADYM

UNPARALLELED DISTANCE

NOW COMES WITH
15% TIGHTER DISPERSION

FADE
DRAW
PARADYM
FORGED CAR
ADJUSTABLE PERIMETER WEIGHTING
INDUSTRY FIRST 360° CARBON CHASSIS

DESIGNED BY A.I.

The industry's first 360° Carbon Chassis redistributes weight to maximize speed in the front and forgiveness in the back. The result is an exceptionally long driver that now delivers 15% tighter downrange dispersion.* A true Paradym shift has finally eliminated the tradeoff between distance and forgiveness.

Callaway
JAILBREAK AI
FORGED TITANIUM A.I. FACE
WITH JAILBREAK A.I.
THE NEW PARADYM IN PERFORMANCE

©2023 Topgolf Callaway Brands Corp. Callaway and the Chevron Device are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Topgolf Callaway Brands Corp. *15% tighter dispersion claim is based on downrange ellipse area of player testing of Rogue ST Max driver vs. Paradym driver.

SRIXON
STARTS FAST. STOPS FASTER.
SRIXON
1
ALL-NEW Z-STAR SERIES
SRIXON Z-STAR
SRIXON Z-STAR XV
SRIXON Z-STAR DIAMOND
NEW

GOLF

GOLF.COM

PUBLISHER **HOWARD MILSTEIN**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DAVID DeNUNZIO

EDITORIAL
Editorial Director ASHLEY MAYO **Executive Editor** JOHN McALLEY
Managing Editor JOHN LEDESMA **Managing Editor** JONATHAN WALL (EQUIPMENT)
Senior Writer JOSH SENS **Architecture Editor** RAN MORRISSETT
Contributing Writers MICHAEL CORCORAN, EVAN ROTHMAN
Contributing Production Editor AIMEE E. BARTOL
Analytics Editor MARK BROADIE **Contributing Copy Editor** MARGARET MAY

Contributing Instructors
THE TOP 100 TEACHERS IN AMERICA

ART + PHOTO
Design WORKS WELL WITH OTHERS DESIGN GROUP:
JESSICA MUSUMECI, NANCY JO IACOI, KEVIN GRIMSTEAD

Contributing Photo Editor NANCY WEISMAN
Contributing Photographers CHRISTOPHER LANE, MATTHEW SALACUSE,
MICHAEL SCHWARTZ, JEFFREY WESTBROOK
Contributing Illustrators BEN MOUNSEY-WOOD, DARREN ROBINSON

GOLF.COM
Executive Editor ALAN BASTABLE **Managing Editor** JOSHUA BERHOW
Senior Writer DYLAN DETHIER **Senior Editors** RYAN BARATH (EQUIPMENT)
NICK DIMENGO (GAME IMPROVEMENT), NICK PIASTOWSKI, SEAN ZAK
Managing Producer KEVIN CUNNINGHAM **Multimedia Editor** JESSICA MARKSBURY
Assistant Editors JAMES COLGAN, JACK HIRSH, ZEPHYR MELTON
Director, Commerce/Social Media TIM REILLY **Assoc. Mgr., Commerce** MARLEY SIMS
Social Media Manager CLAIRE ROGERS **Social Media Editor** DARREN RIEHL
Video Production SARAH-MIA DRENNEN, CONNOR FEDERICO,
MARK HANNAN, TIFFANI LYNCH
Twitter Golf_Com / **Instagram** Golf_Com / **Snapchat** Golf_Com / **Facebook**.Com/Golf

PRODUCTION QUAD
Account Manager KYLIE CESPEDES **Premedia** MAX THOMSON

CIRCULATION PUBWORX

8AM GOLF

GOLF MAGAZINE IS A PART OF 8AM GOLF, WHICH INCLUDES NICKLAUS COMPANIES, TRUE SPEC GOLF, GOLF LOGIX, MIURA AND CLUB CONEX

HOWARD MILSTEIN
CHAIRMAN

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE
PARTNER

HOYT McGARITY
President

TREY MARUCCI
Chief Strategy Officer

ASHLEY MAYO
Head of Brand

DINO MARKUS
Head of Video

JAMES RIDOUT
Finance + Investments

CHARLIE GRACE
Player Relations

BRIAN RICHARDSON
Video Content Strategy

JEFF FUJIMOTO, ANTHONY GERARD,
KELLIE STENZEL
Advisors

KELLEN TALLADA
Head of Tech & Digital Strategy

6 E. 43RD STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10017

From the Editor

Tried & Tested

I SAW *DO THE RIGHT THING,* the 1989 Spike Lee film, in a theater with my mother. If you know the picture, you'll understand why it probably wasn't the best mother-son movie-night selection we could have come up with. But, aside from a few racy scenes (at least for a 20-year-old to watch sitting next to his mama) and her distaste for some of the language, Audrey liked it. "Do the right thing—that's good advice," she said afterward. (Mom was never one for nuance or mise-en-scène.)

This all pertains to the issue you're holding in your hands—GOLF's latest iteration of its time-honored new gear review franchise, ClubTest—and giving credit where credit is due. In this case, it's Radio Raheem–sized kudos to GOLF's equipment editors **Jonathan Wall** and **Ryan Barath.** Within this issue you'll find 44 pages dedicated to ClubTest, all managed by J-Wall and R.B. On GOLF.com, our gear dynamic duo have published nearly 100 stories, reviews and videos in this year's search for the drivers, woods, irons, wedges and putters sure to lower your scores.

Even more to Jon and Ryan's credit, they've crafted this year's ClubTest in a new way, leaning on GOLF's staff of editors and writers to visit each of the nine major manufacturers we cover in this issue in order to experience firsthand what it's like to test new gear—driver to putter—under the watchful eye of an expert clubfitter. You'll see this throughout the ClubTest package in various "Proving Ground" write-ups, where each rater relays what it was like to sample clubs *and* get fit as part of the process. What you'll learn is that the new and great tech built into this year's gear—and there's a ton of it—is best deployed when it's built for *you.* From our in-house testers, you'll hear about 20-yard gains (p. 67) and the miraculous transformation of a nagging fade to a reliable draw (p. 41). But that, in many ways, depends on whether you're buying off-the-rack or buying clubs that are truly yours.

More than ever, clubfitting is the key. And options abound. Improvements seen by our team—golfers just like you—are made possible by the pros at an agnostic fitter like **True Spec,** one of GOLF's sister companies, or at other nationwide fitters such as GolfTEC or Club Champion. Trust us: The notion of "buying a better game" has never been more real.

So let's tie a bow on it. Do the right thing: Buy, but get fit.

David DeNunzio Editor-In-Chief

Matthew Salacuse

GOLF CLUB TEST 20 23

Gains made by our team of testers came with a caveat: They involved a personal fitting. Resources here abound:

True Spec
truespecgolf.com
GolfTEC
golftec.com
Club Champion
clubchampion.com
Callaway
callawaygolf.com
PING
pinggolf.com
TaylorMade
taylormadegolf.com

SRIXON
STARTS
FAST.
STOPS
FASTER.
SRIXON
1
ALL-NEW
Z-STAR SERIES
NEW
SRIXON
Z-STAR
Z-STAR XV
Z-STAR DIAMOND

SRIXON
STARTS FAST. STOPS FASTER.
SRIXON
SRIXON 1
ALL-NEW Z-STAR SERIES
NEW
SRIXON
Z-STAR
Z-STAR XV
Z-STAR ♦ DIAMOND

GOLF

GOLF.COM

CHAIRMAN HOWARD MILSTEIN

CEO JASON ADEL

Chief Operating Officer ROB DeCHIARO

Chief Financial Officer CANDICE ADAMS

ADVERTISING SALES
SVP, Head of Sales
BRAD FELENSTEIN
Consultant
DOUG DIAMOND

FINANCE
Controller
JULIA DRUYEVA
Manager, Accounting & Finance
STEPHANIE LOPEZ

CONSUMER INSIGHT
VP, Audience Development & Analytics
KIP MORGAN
SEO & Email Manager
MATTHEW BLOCKUS
Social Media Manager
STEPHANIE SONG
Director, Ad Operations
ED GONZALEZ
Associate Director, Digital Operations
HEATHER JORALEMON

BRAND MARKETING
Director, Business Development
BRENDAN MOHLER
Associate Director, Marketing & Activations
ELIZABETH MILLER
Marketing Design
TANYA DeSELM
Marketing Manager
TREY CRONEY
Assistant Account Manager
HARRISON COHEN

ADVERTISING OFFICES

NEW YORK
MARK HANNON
SENIOR ACCOUNT DIRECTOR
mark.hannon@golf.com
(646) 876-1793

MATT LEVY
SENIOR ACCOUNT DIRECTOR
matt.levy@golf.com
(646) 882-2505

SAN DIEGO
BRIAN FORTINI
GOLF EQUIPMENT DIRECTOR
brian.fortini@golf.com
(760) 753-4100

LOS ANGELES / SAN FRANCISCO
MATT ESTRADA
WESTERN SALES DIRECTOR
matt.estrada@golf.com
(310) 701-7117

SOUTHEAST
MICHAEL METHVIN
SOUTHEAST SALES DIRECTOR
michael.methvin@golf.com
(843) 816-6384

CHICAGO
JOHN PRESCHLACK
MIDWEST SALES DIRECTOR
john.preschlack@golf.com
(224) 383-6004

CHRIS JONES
ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST
chris.jones@golf.com
(224) 383-6011

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Visit GOLF.COM/CUSTOMERSERVICE **/ Call** (800) 876-7726 **/ E-mail** GFMCUSTSERV@CDSFULFILLMENT.COM **/ Write** GOLF MAGAZINE, P.O. BOX 3200, HARLAN, IA 51593-0046

GOLF MAGAZINE (ISSN-1056-5493) is published monthly, except for four combined issues: Jan/Feb, Jul/Aug, Sep/Oct and Nov/Dec. All rights reserved. Editorial and Advertising offices: 6 E. 43 St., New York, NY 10017. Contents may not be reprinted without written permission. GOLF and GOLF MAGAZINE are federally registered trademarks of the owner. Subscriptions: U.S. and its possessions, one year $30. For Canada add $10 per year (includes GST). For foreign add $30 (via air) per year. Subscriptions processed electronically. GOLF MAGAZINE entered as periodical postage paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices. Canada Post Publication Mail Agreement No. 40110178. Return undeliverable Canada addresses to: Postal Stn. A, PO Box 4015, Toronto, ON M5W2T2. Canada GST Registration #81996300RT0001. Printed in USA. How to reach GOLF MAGAZINE: Editorial Inquiries: Address correspondence to GOLF MAGAZINE, Attn: Editorial, 6 E. 43 St., New York, NY 10017; or e-mail to golfletters@golf.com. Address contributions to the Editorial Department at the address above. We are not responsible for loss of unsolicited manuscripts or other materials. They will not be returned unless accompanied by return postage. CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: For 24-7 service, use our website: golf.com/customerservice. You can also call 800-876-7726, e-mail at gfmcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com or write to GOLF MAGAZINE at PO Box 3200, Harlan, IA 51593-0046. Subscribers: If the Post Office alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within two years. Your bank may provide updates to the card information we have on file. You may opt-out of this service at any time. Microfilm editions available from UMI, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. POSTMASTER: Send all UAA to CFS. (See DMM 507.1.5.2); NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES: Send address corrections to GOLF MAGAZINE, PO Box 3200, Harlan, IA 51593-0046 or call 800-876-7726. Syndication: For international licensing and syndication requests, please contact the editorial offices. RIDE-ALONG ENCLOSED IN EDITIONS THAT BEGIN WITH THE LETTER “R.”

G-Tech Heated Vest

Scan here to visit our Pro Shop where you'll find this stylish **G-Tech Vest** and lots more to keep you warm.

If cold winter days got you down, the **G-Tech Heated Vest** ($220; gtechapparel.com) will warm you right back up. All you need to do to stay toasty and cozy is put your hands inside the pockets and grab onto the rechargeable heat bars. No more extra gloves or disposable hand warmers!

The G-Tech chest icon serves as the "on" switch and changes color from red (hottest) to orange (hot) to green (warm).

While this heated vest can handle athletic performance, it is tailored for everyday comfort too. It's lightweight and sleek enough to wear over a polo and still keep you swinging freely. When conditions call to bundle up, it makes a great layer under your favorite winter coat.

This ultimate cold weather piece is available in men's and women's styles with a battery that'll last more than 12 hours.

It's a game changer for dew sweepers and outdoorsy types of all stripes. —*Tim Reilly*

Jeffrey Westbrook; Styling: Miako Katoh

In Case You Missed It...

SKECHERS
KG
Hilton
GRAND VACATIONS
TOURNAMENT of CHAMPIONS

Julio Aguilar/Getty Images

Oh...Canada!

JANUARY 22, 2023
LAKE NONA
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
ORLANDO, FLA.

Brooke Henderson had plenty of reasons to beam at Lake Nona. She may be a Canuck, but there was no shortage of support for the 25-year-old Canadian at the LPGA's 2023 season opener, the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions. Maple Leaf flags flecked the gallery throughout the week, and Henderson fed off the snowbirds' energy on her way to a dominant four-shot victory.

"A lot of them are from Canada and wear the Canadian gear," Henderson said after the win. "That's pretty cool."

No moment captured that spirit better than a scene along the shoreline near the 18th hole. There, on a pontoon, a boatman madly waved the Canadian flag as Henderson made her march toward career win No. 13.

Even cooler? The banner week Henderson and fellow TaylorMade signee Nelly Korda had debuting their new gear. Henderson and fourth-place finisher Korda were announced as TaylorMade athletes earlier in the week, and the duo—paired in the final group of the final round—made a splash on their maiden voyage sporting the new clubs. Henderson's win was the third wire-to-wire rout of her career, which now includes at least one victory in eight of her nine seasons on tour. No doubt, she's sticking with the sticks.

"I'm really happy I made the switch," she said. "And hopefully the success just continues."

If she keeps hitting the ball like she did at Lake Nona, it's a safe bet there are more hefty trophies—and huge smiles—in store for '23. —*Zephyr Melton*

SRIXON
PRO-LEVEL
PURE
ZX5
MAINFRAME
SRIXON
MK-II
SRIXON
ZX7

ALL-NEW ZX MK II IRONS

What makes an Iron pure enough for Major Champions? Forged carbon steel, tour-validated shaping, and technology perfected by automated intelligence. We made the new ZX Mk II Irons pure enough for the best in the game, including you.

FORESIGHT SPORTS

TRUE SPEC GOLF

TRUE SPEC GOLF

ANYONE CAN GET FIT

As the world's premier brand agnostic club fitter, True Spec Golf offers a matrix of more than 50,000 premium clubhead and shaft combinations geared to optimize your game. Combine that with certified master fitters, builders and cutting-edge launch monitor technology, and you'll agree that getting "True Spec fit" is a no brainer.

BOOK A FITTING

truespecgolf.com
info@truespecgolf.com
(844) 729-8809

ATLANTA | AUSTRALIA | BAHAMAS | BEND | BEVERLY HILLS | BOSTON | CHICAGO NORTH SHORE | CHICAGO WEST | COLUMBUS | DALLAS-FORT WORTH | DENVER
GENEVA | JUPITER | MIAMI | MUNICH | NAPLES | NAPLES GRANDE | NEW JERSEY | NORTH GEORGIA | NORTH SCOTTSDALE | NYC DOWNTOWN
NYC MIDTOWN | OAHU | ORLANDO | PALM DESERT | PARIS | PHOENIX | PINE NEEDLES | RALEIGH | SAN DIEGO | SCOTTSDALE | TAMPA BAY | MOBILE UNIT

Clubhouse

Michael Schwartz

Up Close with
Josh Sens

Cameron Smith

For the defending Players champion, the LIVing has been easy—even if that means he won't be competing in his own backyard this month at Sawgrass

MID-JANUARY, ON THE CLUBHOUSE PATIO OF THE DYE PRESERVE GC IN JUPITER, FLA.

Josh Sens: We're coming up on a year since your big win at the 2022 Players Championship. What are your most vivid memories from that week?
Cameron Smith: What stands out for me was that it was the first time I'd seen my mom and sister in about two and a half years, so it was a very emotional time when golf really took a back seat. But all the stars aligned, and I played really good golf, even though I wasn't expecting to. I had a pretty hard history on that course.
JS: You didn't practice much leading into the event?
CS: I'm probably known as being a bit lazy on the

▸▸

▸▸ practice range, so a lot of people didn't think anything of it. But, yeah, I was trying to spend quality time with family, and I already knew the course well [because I live] in the area.

JS: Now you're the defending champ, and you won't be there because LIV players have been banned from the event. How much does that bother you?

CS: It stings a bit. But with my decision to come over to LIV, that was one of the things I had to give up, and I'm at ease with it. I'd love to be playing there, but there are a lot of other great tournaments and venues and countries that I'm looking forward to this year.

JS: You give off the impression of someone who doesn't have to work very hard on your game. On a scale of one to 10, how much of a grinder are you?

CS: I've always been kind of a process guy. Some days, I'll spend three to four hours on the range. Other days, I'll literally be there for half an hour and if I do what I want to do, I'll be the first one to put my hand up and go home. A lot of other guys are different. In the past few years, I've hung out a lot with Billy Horschel, and it seems like he's out there from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day, trying to get the most out of himself. But it's just never the way I've seen golf. I've always wanted to keep it fun and entertaining for myself.

JS: Soon after the Players comes the Masters. Augusta National recently announced that it won't ban LIV players. But were you worried when you joined LIV that you might not be invited back to Augusta?

CS: When I was at the Masters last year, I never really thought about it because I'd never thought about [joining LIV]. But it's a place where I've played well and that I love, so if I were never able to go back there again, I'd be pretty gutted.

JS: What about this year? Were you concerned you might be kept out?

CS: Yeah. I mean, for sure. There was a little bit of chatter about it. But it's just one of those things that I had to weigh. And, for me, being able to spend time in Australia—I just spent seven or eight weeks there, which is something I haven't been able to do in six or seven years—being able to spend that quality time with family far outweighed any golf tournament.

JS: Part of the backdrop of this year's Masters will be LIV and Tour guys competing in the same field. Do you feel like there's any kind of rivalry?

CS: I can only speak for myself, but I'm there to win the golf tournament. Whether it's Dustin Johnson or Rory McIlroy behind me, it's not going to matter. I'm sure there are a few guys from LIV who have a little bit of a chip on their shoulder about it. But it's definitely not me.

JS: Do you expect the atmosphere to feel any different this year?

CS: I think it will be interesting. I feel like I get along with 99 percent of people, and if they have a bad taste in their mouth because of me going to play somewhere else, they can have that opinion. But I'm not going to let it bug me. I'm still going to like the same people I liked before.

JS: Who are your closest friends on Tour?

CS: The Aussie guys are probably the guys I hang out with the most. With Leish [Marc Leishman] coming over to LIV, he's probably my closest mate out there, followed closely by Scotty [Adam Scott], who obviously stayed

> "I'm not sure about the whole ranking thing. It's nice to have a system, but we all know who the good guys are."

At the '22 LIV finale, Smith's scorching 65 nearly earned his team the championship.

on [the PGA] Tour, but we still talk a lot. I've become really close with Billy [Horschel] as well. He's been very vocal about LIV, but we're still good friends.

JS: A title you will get to defend this year is the Open Championship. How much did your win last year at St. Andrews mean to you?

CS: It was awesome. I think the Claret Jug is one of the most amazing trophies in sport, let alone golf. I just took it down to Australia, and the way that people look at it for the first time, it's like they're seeing a ghost.

JS: One of the criticisms of the LIV tour is that the competition isn't as intense, so guys are going to lose their edge. Is that a concern to you?

CS: We're still playing the same game. It's just on a different tour. I think that argument has gone out the window.

JS: What about the argument that with all the money you've been paid, you won't have as much drive?

CS: We're all still competitors. We want to beat each other. There might have been one point really early in my career where I was like, "Gosh, I have to make this putt to pay rent." But from that point on, the drive has always been about wanting to beat everyone.

JS: LIV events are not eligible for world-ranking points. How important are the rankings to you?

CS: I'm not sure about the whole ranking thing. It's nice to have a system, but we all know who the good guys are.

JS: You're currently ranked third in the world. Where do you rank yourself?

CS: I don't know. I feel like I'm playing some solid golf, so I'll just leave it at that.

JS: Since you won't be defending at the Players, what will you do that week?

CS: I'll be watching. I grew up my whole childhood watching. And that's where I live now. I'd love to get out there [as a spectator]. I don't know how it would be received. But going out there and walking around in the crowd might be pretty funny.

Left: Charles Laberge/LIV Golf/Getty Images; Right, from top: Aaron Gilbert/Icon Sportswire/Getty Images; Courtesy Titleist

ON THE NUMBER

There's data behind every swing. We crunch it so you don't have to.

$4,364,403

Lydia Ko's winnings in 2022. Tops among LPGA players. In '23, the women will play for a record total purse of $101.4 million.

.13

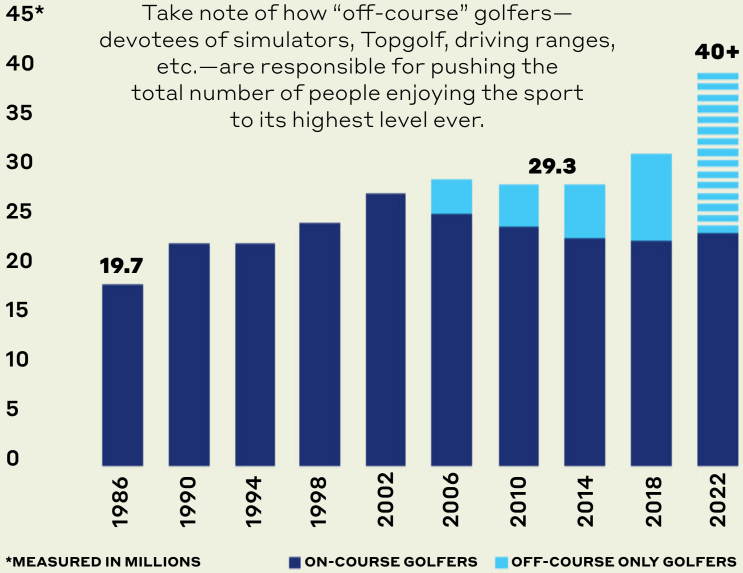
THE INCREASED SIZE, IN INCHES, OF THE INNER CORE OF THE 2023 TITLEIST PRO V1X. THE EXPANSION MEANS 44 PERCENT MORE MATERIAL IN THE CORE, DESIGNED TO LOWER LONG-GAME SPIN AND IMPROVE STABILITY.

6.6

Yards of carry-distance difference between a center strike and eight off-center points on the face of **Callaway's Paradym X driver,** as measured by a **robot at 95 mph.** In testing (p. 37), it was one of only five drivers with a single-digit carry-distance loss on mishits.

Growing the Game

Take note of how "off-course" golfers—devotees of simulators, Topgolf, driving ranges, etc.—are responsible for pushing the total number of people enjoying the sport to its highest level ever.



SOURCE: NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION

RESEARCH BY JACK HIRSH

How It Works

Just in Time

With TAG Heuer's **Calibre E4 Golf Edition watch,** your days of on-course uncertainty are over

PAY A LITTLE BIT too much attention to detail and it's really easy to find yourself distracted by TAG Heuer's Calibre E4 Golf Edition watch ($2,650; tagheuer.com).

The luxury watchmaker's newest golf offering is, simply, a supercomputer for your wrist. Every pixel on the Calibre E4's vibrant 42-millimeter face is packed with the sort of real-time tracking information, health data and on-course feedback every golfer needs to get the most out of their game. Loads of digital data points guide your every course-management decision and swing, providing you with up-to-the-second info from tee to green.

But strap on the Calibre E4 and you'll notice something surprising. These features—the ones worthy of mission control at NASA—turn out to be focus *enhancers,* not geek-out, on-course distractions. Yes, the E4's tech is mind-boggling, but its application is anything but. *—James Colgan*

1. THE FACE

An OLED touchscreen is the E4's ultimate wow. For golfers, the ultrasharp face displays course details, shot analysis and health data throughout your round, and its ceramic bezel helps keep score. When set to conventional timekeeping mode, the face is more crisp than your cleanest strike.

2. THE CROWN AND "PUSHERS"

Enhancing the touchscreen's functionality are a steel crown and directional "pushers" that help you navigate the E4's features.

3. THE HEART RATE MONITOR

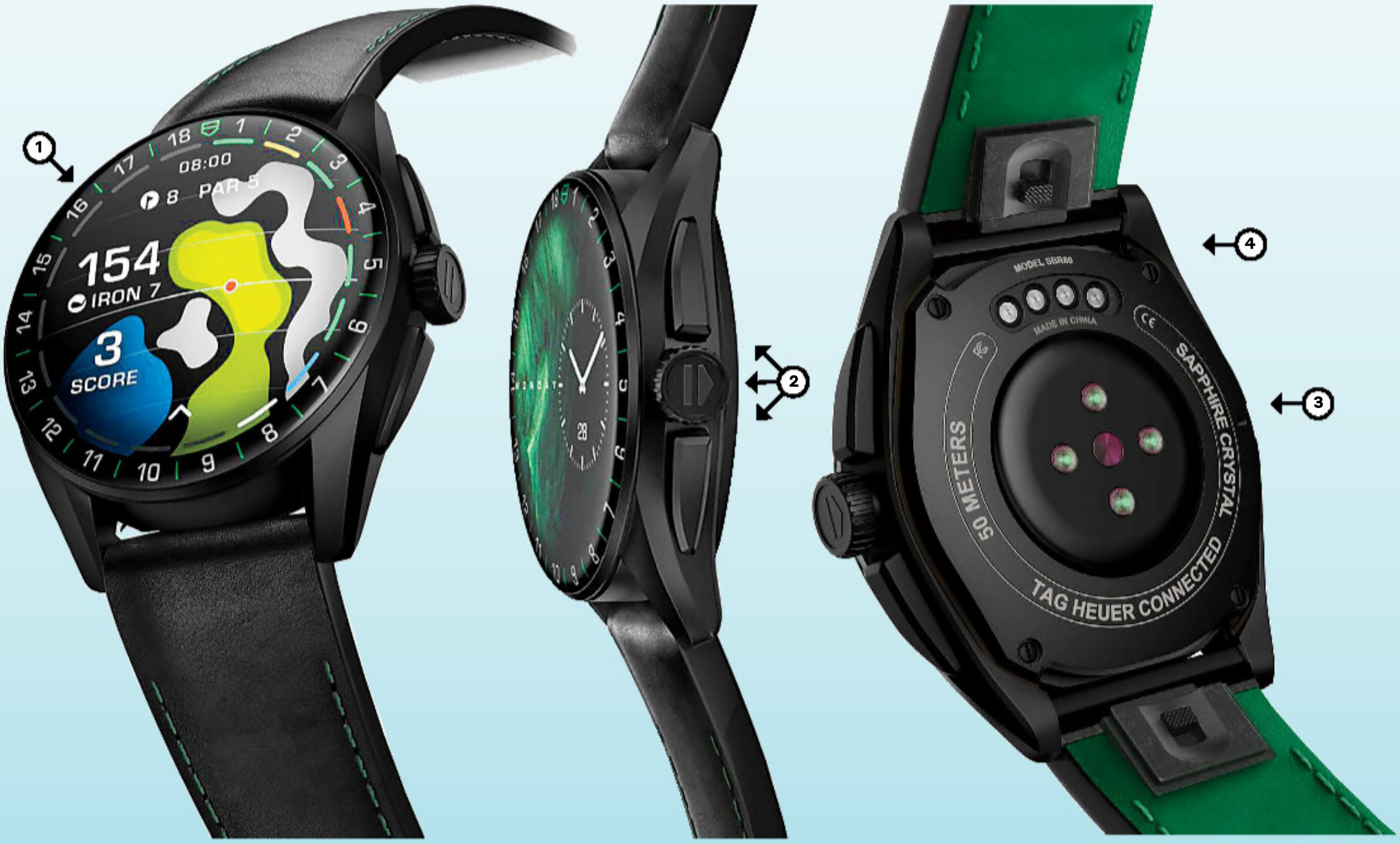
Finding the right tech to track your game isn't easy, but it's *easier* with this sensor, which measures heart rate and calories burned. Tucked in behind it is the E4's drill sergeant—a Qualcomm processor that meets your on-course demands with speed and efficiency—and an accelerometer and gyroscope that monitor the velocity, orientation and force of each swing.

4. THE BATTERY

A 330-milliamp power cell provides a day's worth of biometric and golf tracking for even the most active golfer. Four sensors on the back of the E4 interface with a stand charger capable of a reload in 90 minutes.

5. THE APP

The whole operation comes together in TAG Heuer's golf app, which includes distance- and 2D hazard-mapping of some 40,000 courses worldwide, detailed stats on your round, overall performance and, most importantly, your health.



Courtesy TAG Heuer

NEW!

PXG

XTREME
GOLF BALLS

LIKE A GYMNAST WEARING A JET PACK GETTING FIRED THROUGH A HOWITZER.

[THEY GO FAR *AND* STICK THE LANDING]

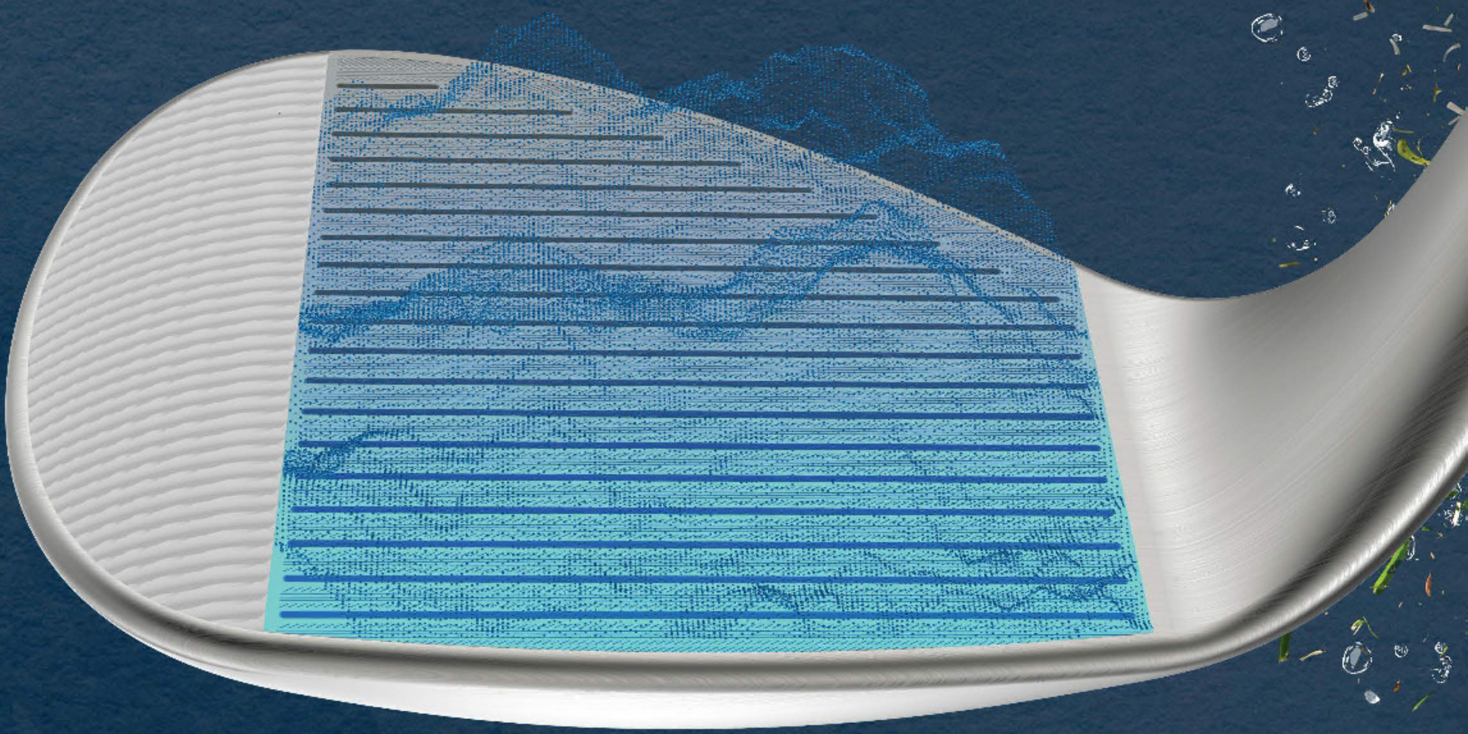
Introducing new PXG Xtreme Golf Balls!
With BIG distance, snappy green-grabbing control, and a slick new alignment aid to help you sink more putts –
PXG HAS THE ONE BALL THAT DOES IT ALL.

PXG balls are only sold direct by PXG.
PXG.COM | 844.PLAY.PXG

NOBODY MAKES GOLF BALLS THE WAY WE DO. PERIOD.™

AND DON'T MISS SPECIAL EDITION PXG XTREME GOLF BALLS WITH OFFICIAL UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS LOGO!

MAJOR SPIN



56 10
Cleveland
ZIPCORE
RTX 6

RTX 6 ZIPCORE

Greenside spin. You can't win without it. That's why all these Major champions choose RTX 6 ZipCore Wedges. They're designed to maximize spin from the rough, sand, fairway or fringe, wet or dry. How? The new friction-enhancing HydraZip face, debris-channeling UltiZip grooves, and MOI-boosting ZipCore, that's how. Altogether, it's an unstoppable recipe for stopping power. Whether you're grinding for a Major Championship or that new personal best.

Cleveland GOLF

Stuff Golfers Should Know

Hide & Seek

Five ways to stop losing your golf balls—other than by just playing better

IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED that the average golfer loses three to four balls a round, accounting for more than 400 million lost balls globally each year. We can do better, people! One way to minimize those mini-heartaches is to keep more drives and approaches in the short grass. But since bad shots are inevitable, here are five other ways to prevent balls from going MIA, regardless of your handicap. *—Josh Sens*

1. Play the right tees

Architects want their courses to present a challenge. They also want them to be fair. They put much thought into the positioning of tees in relation to ponds, creeks and other ball-swallowing hazards. We owe it to them—and ourselves—to put thought (see sidebar) into playing the boxes that suit our game.

2. Find a reference point

Golf instructors often say, pick a target in the distance. The same applies when you're following the flight of an errant shot. Pick a feature in the landscape—a tree, a shrub, a path, a shack—in the area where the shot is headed and keep it locked in view as you head off on your search. When you leave the tee, it's easy to lose perspective. You'll want to have a landmark as a reference point.

More Stuff You Should Know

Instructor Jon Tattersall has an equation for picking the right tee box for your game. "On par 5s," he says, "the best players I coach cover about 50 percent of the hole with driver, and on par 4s, about 60 to 70 percent of the hole with driver." So assess your average driving distance, do the math and tee it up with reason.

3. Use a highly visible ball

You know those construction sites you speed past on the way to the course? There's a reason they're bracketed with bright orange cones and populated by workers in neon-yellow safety vests. Those colors are two of the easiest for the human eye to see. How this dynamic plays out against the verdant backdrop of a course can vary in accordance with a range of factors, including the shade of the turf, the brightness of the day and the vision of the golfer. But, more often than not, you've got a better crack at tracking your ball if it's the color of the Hulk or a radioactive tangerine. And anecdotal evidence suggests that there's something freeing about knocking around a cartoonishly colored ball. Call it the Hacker's Paradox: The ball you take less seriously is the object you are less likely to lose.

4. Don't look away in disgust

We understand. A natural reaction to a slice or smother-hook is to turn away in fury or disappointment. But do yourself a favor and resist the urge to avert your eyes.

5. Be a good scout

When you play golf with others, you sign a social contract. Among the conduct it requires is maintaining a good pace, repairing pitch marks and, yes, keeping watch on your partners' shots. It doesn't take a lot. And think of it this way: The more time you spend watching, the less time you'll spend trawling.

Stuff Golfers Should Know is a GOLF.com series in which we reveal all kinds of useful golf (and life!) wisdom sure to make you the smartest, savviest and most prepared player in your foursome.

Left: Sam Greenwood/Getty Images; Right: Jim McQueen Artwork Originals & Prints/Courtesy the Nicklaus Companies

Golden Rules with **Jon Tattersall**

Swing in Harmony

Jack Nicklaus knew that proper sequencing is all about rhythm and timing. Borrow his rocking imagery to improve your coordination in a hurry.

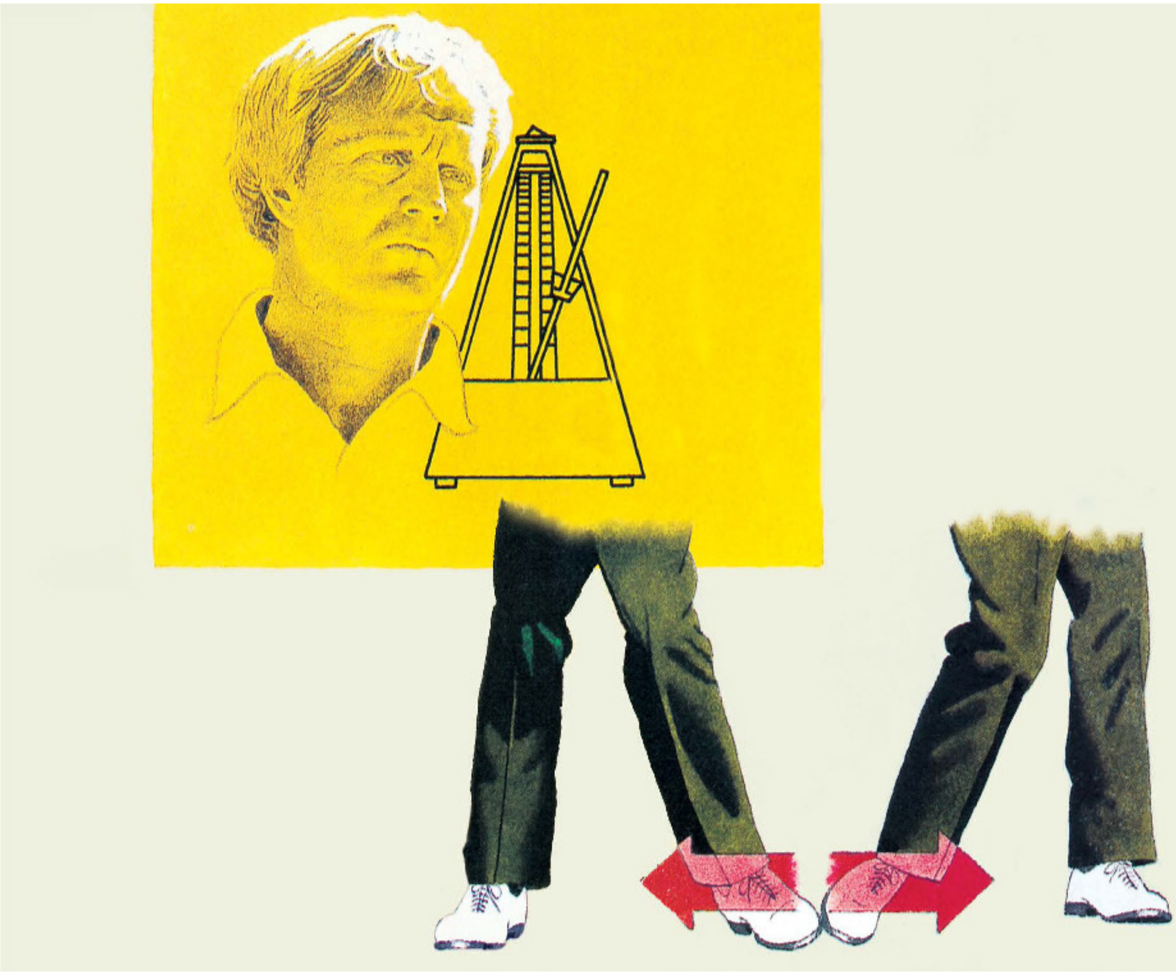
I HEARD THE TERM *harmonic oscillator* a few years ago and was lost until I realized it was simply a pendulum. Understanding how a pendulum works and how we can increase pendulum speed has become very helpful in explaining to golfers how to improve their sequencing.

A harmonic oscillator served as the model for Jack's image of his lower body. It makes so much sense. The idea of moving from lead to trail leg and back to lead in rhythm with a pendulum is great.

Building off this image, consider that the movement of the club around the body acts as a pendulum too. So you're swinging a pendulum (the club) around a pendulum (your body). Timing those two pendulums will synchronize the swing with the body motion to produce more power and accuracy. A skilled player who's perfected these motions has a swing that looks coordinated and rhythmic—because it is!

Try the simple drill of holding a club loosely in your fingertips. Now try to take it back slowly, then increase speed quickly. You'll find the club will not swing. Now try the same thing while gripping the club normally and swinging with the image of Jack's foot movements. While swinging the club, try to match more closely your backswing speed with your downswing speed. Now you've created a harmonic oscillator!

GOLF TOP 100 TEACHER **JON TATTERSALL** (@TATTERSALLGOLF) IS COFOUNDER OF FUSION ATL IN ATLANTA, GA.



Scan the code above to watch a special video of this lesson—plus more insight from the Nicklaus instruction archives—with Top 100 Teacher Jon Tattersall.

Access

Higher Education

Wanna be schooled? The cutting-edge **Titleist Performance Institute** is golf's epicenter of getting better.

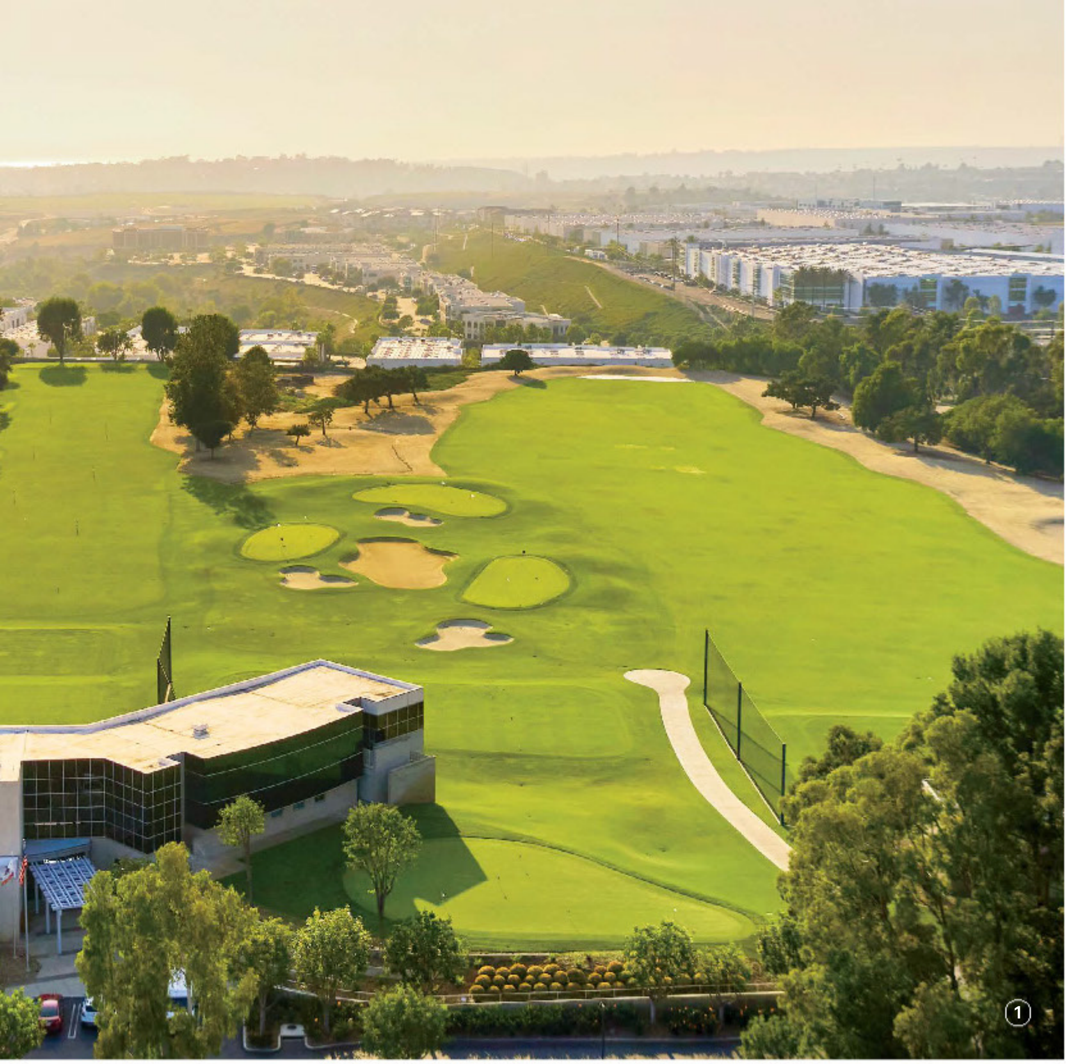
OCEANSIDE IS IN MANY WAYS the quintessential coastal California town: palm trees, sandy beaches, iconic wooden pier jutting into the Pacific, the state's Surf Museum. It's also home of the Titleist Performance Institute, making it an idyllic spot not only for the hang-ten crowd but also the wannabe single-digit, scratch and plus-handicap set.

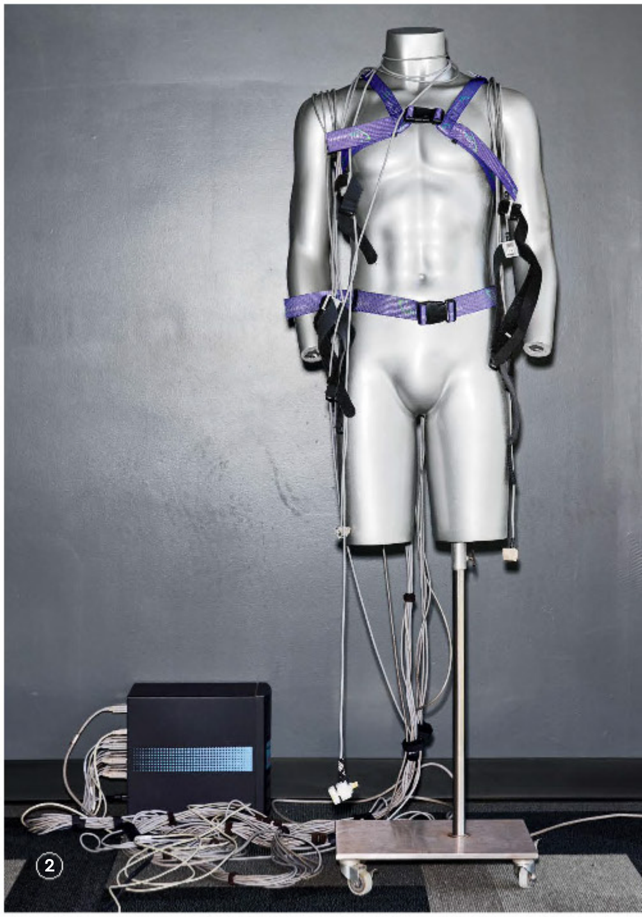
The facility's mission since its 1997 inception has been straightforward, if hardly simple—namely, to provide the most advanced golf equipment, evaluation, testing and education facility anywhere. The 33-acre site, as pristinely kept as a five-star resort, conducts Tour-quality clubfittings, does unparalleled ball and club testing and boasts three absolutely pure fairways, a fitness center to live for and a 3D motion-capture studio. What's being captured? Data from thousands of golf swings, from Titleist staffers like Max Homa, Will Zalatoris and Danielle Kang to regular Joes and Janes in order to study how the human body functions throughout the swing. That means a swing that functions correctly and efficiently, as well as uncovering how it doesn't, with the potential injuries that can result.

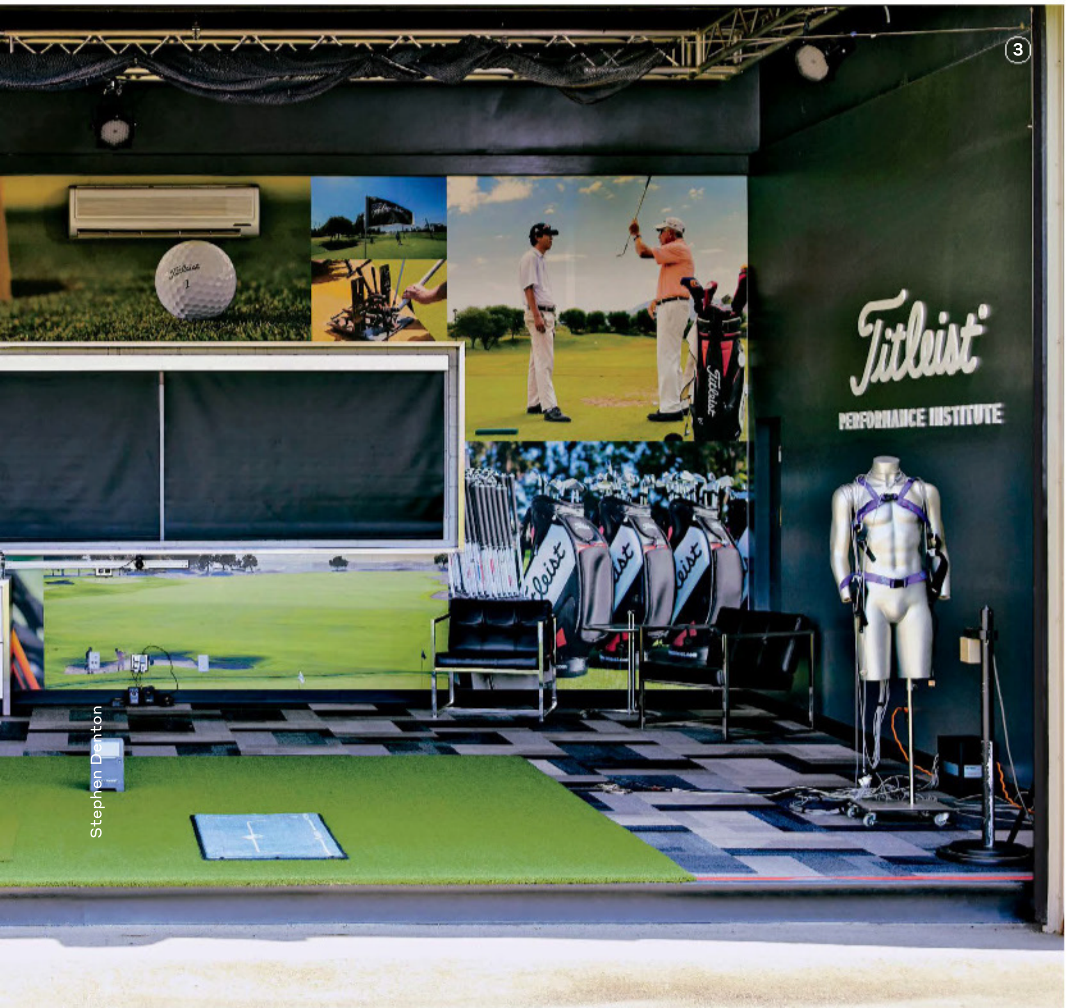
"Our main objective at TPI is to educate golf industry professionals and the playing public on the importance of the body and how it relates to the golf swing," says TPI cofounder Dave Phillips. "We have thousands and thousands of data points that we've accumulated over the past 20 years and know golfers will benefit the most from a healthy and efficient body."

If you can make the trip, TPI is worth an in-person visit PDQ for clubfittings and golf fitness evals. This being Cali, the place that brought us the phrase "tech hub," it's worth noting that TPI is also just that. The main TPI R&D facility is a nerve center that branches out worldwide, with fitters in every market and a network of 20,000-plus TPI-certified professionals in 63 countries. So if you can't get to Oceanside, you can still access an ocean's worth of TPI institutional knowledge. —*Evan Rothman*

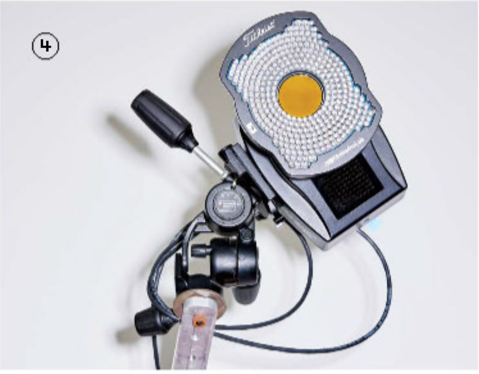
TPI
Titleist





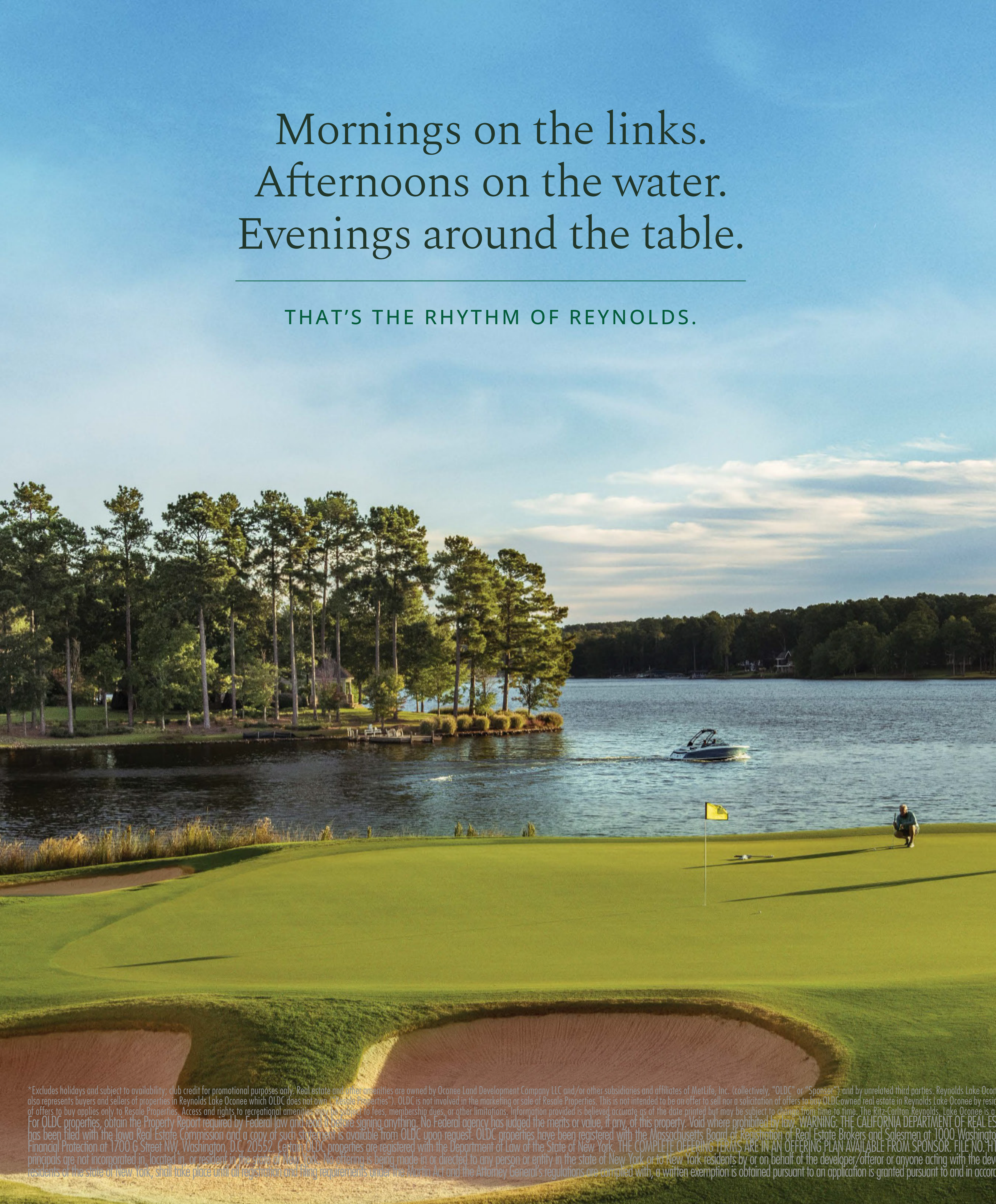


Stephen Denton



1. As seen from on high, TPI's 33-acre campus is the site of comprehensive ball and club testing, ball and clubfitting for Tour players and consumer golf fitness evaluations. It also hosts many TPI training events. **2.** Cutting-edge player measurement technology helps determine a golfer's kinematic sequence and ability to generate power. (The mannequin can absolutely crush it, trust us.)

3. The 3D bay at TPI combines force plate technology, 2D cameras and motion-capture gear to analyze the golf swing in 6 degrees of freedom. **4.** Titleist R&D uses a proprietary high-speed camera system to precisely measure how small changes in equipment impact golfer performance. (Spoiler alert: These small changes can impact performance a great deal.)



*Excludes holidays and subject to availability; club credit for promotional purposes only. Real estate and other amenities are owned by Oconee Land Development Company LLC and/or other subsidiaries and affiliates of MetLife, Inc. (collectively, "OLDC" or "Sponsor") and by unrelated third parties. Reynolds Lake Ocon
also represents buyers and sellers of properties in Reynolds Lake Oconee which OLDC does not own ("Resale Properties"). OLDC is not involved in the marketing or sale of Resale Properties. This is not intended to be an offer to sell nor a solicitation of offers to buy OLDC-owned real estate in Reynolds Lake Oconee by resid
of offers to buy applies only to Resale Properties. Access and rights to recreational amenities may be subject to fees, membership dues, or other limitations. Information provided is believed accurate as of the date printed but may be subject to change from time to time. The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee is a
For OLDC properties, obtain the Property Report required by Federal law and read it before signing anything. No Federal agency has judged the merits or value, if any, of this property. Void where prohibited by law. WARNING: THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF REAL ES
has been filed with the Iowa Real Estate Commission and a copy of such statement is available from OLDC upon request. OLDC properties have been registered with the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Real Estate Brokers and Salesmen at 1000 Washingto
Financial Protection at 1700 G Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20552. Certain OLDC properties are registered with the Department of Law of the State of New York. THE COMPLETE OFFERING TERMS ARE IN AN OFFERING PLAN AVAILABLE FROM SPONSOR. FILE NO. HT
principals are not incorporated in, located in, or resident in the state of New York. No offering is being made in or directed to any person or entity in the state of New York or to New York residents by or on behalf of the developer/offeror or anyone acting with the deve
residents of the state of New York, shall take place until all registration and filing requirements under the Martin Act and the Attorney General's regulations are complied with, a written exemption is obtained pursuant to an application is granted pursuant to and in accord

REYNOLDS
LAKE OCONEE

Reynolds Lake Oconee has a cadence all its own. The waterfront golf community is home to six championship courses, TaylorMade club fitting and instruction at the legendary Kingdom, and Members from across the country. Just east of Atlanta, Reynolds boasts an inspiring mix of clubs and restaurants, and one of the only lakefront Ritz-Carlton® resorts in the world. Here, pastimes become passions, and neighbors quickly become lifelong friends.

BOOK YOUR LIFESTYLE VISIT to experience our community firsthand. Stays include golf, boat rental and a private real estate tour, with preferred rates in a cottage or at The Ritz-Carlton®, starting at $349/night.

REYNOLDSLAKEOCONEE.COM/GOLFMAG • (855) 656.7357

ee Properties, LLC ("RLOP") is the exclusive listing agent for OLDC-owned properties in Reynolds Lake Oconee. RLOP
dents of HI, ID, OR, or any other jurisdiction where prohibited by law. As to such states, any offer to sell or solicitation
private commercial enterprise and use of the facilities is subject to the applicable fees and policies of the operator.
STATE HAS NOT INSPECTED, EXAMINED, OR DISQUALIFIED THIS OFFERING. An offering statement
n Street, Suite 710, Boston, Massachusetts 02118-6100 and the Bureau of Consumer
4-0001. Notice to New York Residents: The developer of Reynolds Lake Oconee and its
eloper/offeror's knowledge. No such offering, or purchase or sale of real estate by or to
dance with Cooperative Policy Statements #1 or #7, or a "No-Action" request is granted.

MAX
PING
FADE
DRAW
TUNGSTEN
FORGED FACE
G430
10.5
MAX
PING
FACE WRAP
G430
3 15
PING
PURFLEX
G430

*A new face design leads
to increased flexing for
faster ball speeds
that generate accurate
tee shots from three
custom-fit models: G430
MAX, SFT and LST.*

*A lower CG with stronger,
custom-engineered lofts
and a thinner face deliver
more ball speed in our
longest iron ever.*

ARCCOS

SCAN FOR **FREE** ARCCOS
SENSORS AND TRIAL

©PING 2022 | P.O. BOX 82000 PHOENIX, AZ 85071 | GM223

G430™

GO FARTHER.
FASTER.

Relying on new innovations and proven technologies in the new G430 family, distance is way up, forgiveness remains unequalled, and the sound is music to your scorecard – leading to lower scores and a lot more enjoyment on the course.

PING
FACE WRAP
G430
22

INTRODUCING

CARBONFLY WRAP™

In the LST driver and all fairways and hybrids, a lightweight composite covers the crown and wraps into the heel and toe sections of the skirt to lower the CG for more ball speed, higher MOI and a pleasing sound.

PING®
PLAY YOUR BEST®

LA GOLF HAS BALLS?

LAGOLF ball
1

March 07, 2023 | Beverly Hills, CA

The November announcement by LA GOLF was clear: "We have balls." But if you read between the lines, this was more than a simple sentence informing the golf industry of a new product category. This was a statement - however tongue in cheek it may be - that LA GOLF is not afraid to take on a category long-dominated by Titleist and cluttered with new brands claiming unique performance attributes. The "LA GOLF ball" (priced at the top of the market at $69.99 in retailers and fitters nationwide) frees you from choosing between control and distance with a 4-piece construction that is designed to compete with many of the top brands in both distance AND control.

GEN 2 PUTTERS: BEL-AIR | MALIBU

Last year, LA GOLF interrupted a decades long innovation drought with the first-ever carbon putter combined with Descending Loft Face technology and a completely stable shaft (FYI - if you watch a slow-motion video, your current putter head wiggles on impact just enough to change your putt line if you have a steel putter shaft). The LA GOLF Putter shook up the market with a large sweet spot due to the lower density of carbon, but the Gen 2 LA GOLF Putter, the "Bel-Air" - or "Malibu" if you prefer a mallet - has the largest sweet spot ever (as a point of reference, the previous largest sweet spot in the industry was 5,000 MOI, while the Bel-Air is just under 7,000). But here is the kicker, up until now, in order to completely optimize your putting stroke you either had to buy a putter, like Scotty Cameron, and then go buy a $400 shaft, but now you can get the forged carbon head in standard size with the largest sweet spot, Descending Loft Face, AND the P-Series LA GOLF putter shaft (previously $400 just for the shaft) ALL for $499.

You can expect that amount of performance enhancing technology for that price point is going to cause some serious discomfort in an industry long dominated by a guy who will charge you ten thousand dollars for a special paint job on a putter that still has a flat-face and a tiny sweet spot. As LA GOLF boasts in one of their recent videos, "you cannot un-see the slow-motion video of the ball skipping and skidding off the flat face of a solid steel putter," but those days are now in the past.

WHAT IS LA GOLF?

LA GOLF burst onto the scene in 2020 with the most technologically advanced shafts co-designed by Bryson DeChambeau and LA GOLF product chief, Jeff Meyer. LA GOLF was founded by Reed Dickens, former founding CEO of Marucci Sports, partnering with Big League players to dethrone incumbents like Louisville Slugger and Easton. After its initial partnership with DeChambeau, LA GOLF announced Dustin Johnson and Michelle Wie West had joined the Board of Directors and since then over a dozen major champions have put LA GOLF products in play.

DEAR GOLF,
WE'VE CREATED THE MOST TECHNOLOGICALLY
ADVANCED PUTTER FOR $499...

USE THE QR
CODE FOR A FREE
DOZEN BALLS
WITH THE
PURCHASE OF
A PUTTER.

LA GOLF

...BOTH THE BEL-AIR AND THE MALIBU INCLUDE OUR $400 SHAFT...

USE THE QR CODE FOR A FREE DOZEN BALLS WITH THE PURCHASE OF A PUTTER.

LA GOLF

LAGOLF ball
1

...AND OUR BALLS HAVE DROPPED.

Callaway
PARADYM
FORGED CARBON
JAILBREAK AI

100% FREE-TO-PLAY

DAILY CONTESTS

WITH REAL PRIZES TO WIN

WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

CLICK. PLAY. WIN.

STEALTH 2
CARBONWOOD
FADE
SPEED POCKET
DRAW
TaylorMade
PLUS
9.0

Chirp

GETCHIRPGOLF.COM

No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Open to legal US residents who are 18 or older.
*Weekly prizes subject to change.

SCAN ME

★★★★★
4.7+ RATED

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

As the equipment-buying season kicks off with a bang this month, length (of course) is the motivator in the big decision to invest in new sticks. The sweet spot for others? Accuracy. Forgiveness. In GOLF's annual review of the best of the new gear, you'll get a *feel*... for it all.

THE GEAR YOU NEED TO SCORE YOUR BEST

GOLF

CLUB TEST

20 23

TRUE SPEC GOLF

INSIDE: 95 CLUBS TESTED AND REVIEWED!

Photograph by Jeffrey Westbrook; Styling: Miako Katoh

Callaway

WITH A.I. LEADING THE CHARGE, CALLAWAY IS FINDING INNOVATIVE WAYS TO BOLSTER THEIR METALWOODS AND IRONS. PARADYM IS ALL KINDS OF SPECIAL.

Drivers

PARADYM
FORGED CARBON
JAILBREAK AI
10.5

▼ PARADYM

$600 / 9.5°, 10.5°, 12°

SMART ADJUSTABILITY AND EYE-OPENING SPEED

PARADYM X
FORGED CARBON
JAILBREAK AI
10.5

▼ PARADYM X

$600 / 9.5°, 10.5°, 12°

LOADED WITH ALL THE FORGIVENESS YOU CAN HANDLE

PARADYM
FORGED CARBON
JAILBREAK AI
10.5

▼ PARADYM TRIPLE DIAMOND

$600 / 8°, 9°, 10.5°

THE LOW-SPIN KILLER YOU NEED IN YOUR LIFE

WE'RE STILL EARLY IN THE SEASON, but it's safe to say Callaway's Paradym is already turning heads. Jon Rahm has put the metalwoods on the map with multiple PGA Tour wins; Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam is raving about the irons; and the putters continue to receive high marks. If this feels like "just another year" for Callaway, it's most certainly not. While Callaway is used to setting the curve in innovation and design, the Paradym line is truly something special. With A.I. and a plethora of carbon fiber leading the way, Callaway's latest woods, irons and putters have the potential to take the industry by storm. They're what you might call a paradigm shift in club design philosophy. (Yes, we went there.)

Paradym drivers

With a new lightweight chassis using two types of carbon fiber fused into one, Paradym promises to shift performance for golfers into high gear. All three models incorporate proven technologies that Callaway has refined to blend greater forgiveness with more distance. The main attribute is a 360 carbon chassis that eliminates any titanium from the driver's body to push mass to where it can best help the target player. While the body provides forgiveness, the ball has to hit something. For the first time since introducing its A.I.-designed Jailbreak system, Callaway has completely revamped the technology by changing the geometry on the back of the face—using thick and thin areas paired with a new cupface—leading to straighter shots that end up closer to the target.

"Paradym is a massive shift for us in how we construct a driver," says Dave Neville, Callaway's senior director, product and brand management. "Carbon is a material that we've used in the past but never to this extent. Going 44 percent lighter allows us to do a lot of special things inside the head to increase forgiveness, ball speed and downrange dispersion for golfers of all handicaps."

3 Things Our Testing Robot Loved About Paradym

(1) Compared to the previous Rogue ST line, the Paradym and Paradym X produced, on average, 200 rpm less spin at 95 mph. A reduction in spin can lead to more carry distance, provided the spin rate isn't consistently sub-2,000 rpm.

(2) The Paradym X was one of only five drivers we tested with a single-digit carry-distance loss (6.6 yards), a statistic that looks at the carry delta between center strikes and the other eight locations (average) we tested on the face. For golfers who struggle with inconsistent contact, the X provides an abundance of ball speed retention. Even better? All three toe and heel locations produced an average carry-distance delta of just six yards. To put that number into perspective, some drivers we tested had carry deltas between 10 to 15 yards across the heel and toe impact locations. It's an impressive improvement from Callaway. **(3)** Across all three models, ball speed increased by 1 mph (an average of all nine face points).

Fairway woods

Callaway
PARADYM
FORGED CARBON
JAILBREAK AI
3
15°

PARADYM

$349 / 15°, 16.5°, 18°, 20°, 21°, 24°, 27°

CONFIDENCE AND ADJUSTABILITY

Callaway
PARADYM X
FORGED CARBON
JAILBREAK AI
3
15°

PARADYM X

$349 / 15°, 16.5°, 18°, 21°

LAUNCH IT HIGH WITH A SLIGHT DRAW BIAS

Callaway
PARADYM
JAILBREAK AI
3
15°

PARADYM TRIPLE DIAMOND

$550 / 13.5°, 15°, 18°

FOR STRONGER PLAYERS LOOKING TO LOWER LAUNCH

Paradym is best suited to fit the widest range of golfers by offering the most adjustability of the three with the help of a sliding weight track at the rear of the driver, along with the proven adjustable hosel. Paradym X, the highest launching of the three, is designed for extreme forgiveness, created by removing the sliding weight adjustability and replacing it with a single rear weight along the perimeter. And then there's Paradym Triple Diamond for players on the highest end of the swing speed and spin bell curve who want more control from a compact (450cc) profile. To help reduce spin, the driver is shorter front to back and comes with adjustable front and rear weights to further dial in spin to the desired window.

Paradym fairway woods

What makes these fairway woods stand out compared to previous lines is the reintroduction of adjustability into the 3-woods of the Paradym and X models, with the Triple Diamond offering adjustability in all available lofts.

This was a direct result of feedback from fitters, professionals and consumers who wanted adjustability to match the driver and the option to better fine-tune flight characteristics in their fairway woods—see, folks, OEMs are listening.

"With Rogue ST, it made sense to go with a nonadjustable design," Neville says. "But we see value in bringing it back."

From a construction standpoint, the fairway woods have an A.I.-designed Jailbreak Batwing structure to push mass away from the face and the middle of the head to position it around the outside for increased MOI (moment of inertia) and total body rigidity. This is possible thanks to the forged composite sole in

Scan this code to buy **Callaway Paradym** clubs at GOLF retail partner FairwayJockey.com.

All club photographs courtesy the manufacturers

Hybrids

PARADYM

$299 / 18°, 21°, 24°, 27°

FAIRWAY WOOD TECH IN AN APPEALING HYBRID SHAPE

PARADYM X

$299 / 18°, 21°, 24°, 27°, 30°

LONG-IRON REPLACEMENT WITH OOMPH

Irons

PARADYM

$1,400 / 7-PIECE SET

THE LOOKS OF A BETTER-PLAYER IRON WITH FORGIVENESS

the Paradym model and smaller carbon panels in the X and Triple Diamond heads.

Paradym hybrids

With the hybrids, Callaway has completely changed the shaping to offer greater versatility along with a more rounded wood-like shape compared to the lower heel and higher toe profile of the past. Just like the fairway wood adjustability, this hybrid shape change was a direct result of requests from players looking for better blending into the longer clubs. From an engineering standpoint, it helps the adjustable hosel blend more seamlessly into the head.

Paradym and Paradym X offer all the same technology as the fairway woods, including a new A.I. Jailbreak Batwing structure to push mass away from the face for increased MOI and total body rigidity, along with a Cutwave Sole designed to help get the club through a variety of turf conditions. What this adds up to is Callaway's most versatile and adjustable hybrid to date.

Paradym irons

The Paradym and Paradym X are designed to offer the best combination of feel and distance by pairing Callaway's A.I. face technology with a forged 455 material.

Each iron face is uniquely optimized through artificial intelligence based on parameters set by the engineers to deliver more ball speed and higher launch through the set, because you don't hit your 5-iron and 9-iron the same way.

The engine behind Paradym is a hollow body configuration with what Callaway dubs Speed Frame construction. The frame adds support to the face for extra ball speed on off-center hits and also allows the structure to be made thinner to free up mass.

The best way to think of the back of a Paradym iron is like a frame brace on a supercar to stabilize the body with the least amount of mass. By removing mass that would generally be placed higher in a hollow body iron, the Paradym has the ability to launch it higher with a more stable spin window.

With all of these strong and rigid materials, the last piece of the iron puzzle is feel. Callaway achieves a soft sound and feel thanks to its patented urethane microspheres that encapsulate the internal tungsten weights placed low in the head to enhance launch conditions and increase stability.

Odyssey putters

The most played putter in the professional ranks, Odyssey putters, are coming out with new models for 2023 under the popular Versa and Tri-Hot 5K lines.

Ten years after its initial launch, Odyssey is reintroducing its extremely easy-to-align Versa putter series to help golfers aim better and make more putts. Let's be honest, putting is hard, and the one thing most golfers struggle with on the greens is alignment—which is where the high contrast alignment technology of the Versa line helps golfers find the proper face angle at address.

Alignment aids on putters aren't new, and Odyssey isn't out to reinvent the wheel by bringing back the Versa putter series. They are simply reacting to requests from some of the best players in the world who are looking for an edge.

In the same way Callaway's Triple Track helps golfers get set up over the ball, Versa's high-contrast alignment system can help players easily detect as little as a 1-degree change in face angle, and, on a 10-foot putt, being off by 1 degree will result in a miss.

The Versa line features a collection of Odyssey's most popular blade and mallet styles—from the One and Seven to the Double Wide and Twelve—so golfers can find the head shape that suits them best.

In the early 2000s, Odyssey released a line of Tri-Hot putters that used a multi-material construction to achieve more forgiveness and a better roll. After releasing a high-MOI blade version last year, the putter manufacturer is adding the magic touch to its mallets this year.

The latest Tri-Hot 5K uses a smart combination of stainless steel, aluminum and tungsten to create impressive for-

PARADYM X
Callaway

▼

PARADYM X

$1,400 / 7-PIECE SET

GAIN MORE SPIN AND A HIGHER LAUNCH WITH EASE

It is industry-first tech that's proprietary to Callaway, and that's what makes Paradym so good.

Scan this code to see how Paradym fared in robot testing in a special video on **GOLF.com.**

CLUBTEST 2023

Proving Ground

Josh Berhow, GOLF.com Managing Editor
Handicap: 14.7

Goal: Find the perfect driver and driver setting for more consistency; configure best woods/hybrids setup for my game.

You know what's holding back 14-handicaps like me from getting better? A lot. Not enough rounds, not enough practice, not the right kind of practice and not enough consistency. The list goes on and on. But you know what should be high on that list? Not enough education. Are the clubs I'm using really the best for me? One model or one shaft or one draw bias doesn't fit everyone. Then I had a chance to put Callaway's new Paradym line to the test and get the feedback, data and solutions I've craved. School was in session.

We started with the driver, and while the Paradym X is going to fix a ton of slices out there, I hit too strong of a draw with it. I switched to the standard Paradym set at 9 degrees, and the first thing I noticed was the difference in my launch window. My current driver, which I have set at 10.5 degrees and hit low already, is a few years old, so maybe not a fair comparison, but the Paradym launched like I hadn't seen before. I was hitting straight balls that soared higher than anything I'd seen.

I hit the Triple Diamond well, too, but the standard Paradym is the only one of the three drivers with a sliding weight on the back, and 14-handicaps like me like options. I found my driver.

But here's what I found interesting (and a mistake I would have made if I didn't have a fitting): While I hit the Paradym driver the best, I preferred the more pro-style Triple Diamond fairway woods. I loved the look of them, and the ball kept climbing and carrying. It was almost laughable. (Check that, I *did* laugh.) Better yet, I was giddy about the additional height I got with the 5-wood, a club I've never carried before. I think it might soon be my new favorite in the bag.

I rounded out the fitting with hybrids, where the options were Paradym and Paradym X. Callaway calls them the most versatile hybrids they've ever made, and I loved the look and feel. The clubheads seemed bigger than a typical hybrid but not as large as a fairway wood, and it was nothing like the blade-like hybrids I'd been swinging. It seemed like a good compromise.

I picked the Paradym over the X model but just the 21 degree to replace my 4-iron. I'll use the new 18-degree 5-wood over the 18-degree hybrid, opting for more forgiveness and a higher ball flight over less roll.

A golfer finally equipped with the right tools? Yes, please.

All headshot illustrations by Joe McKendry

TRI-HOT 5K SEVEN

$399

ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES YOU'D WANT IN A PUTTER WITH FORGIVENESS

ODYSSEY
SEVEN
Putters

WHITE HOT
VERSA
DOUBLE WIDE

VERSA DOUBLE WIDE

$550

SMART ALIGNMENT WITH A CLASSIC WHITE-HOT FEEL

giveness for those who might not want to play a traditional blade profile.

The Tri-Hot 5K putters have a milled front section made of 303 stainless steel, a back section made of lightweight 6061 aircraft-grade aluminum and heavy tungsten weights sandwiched between in the toe and heel sections. The design helps move center of gravity (CG) forward and establishes higher MOI.

"We recognize that not everyone wants to play a blade," Neville says. "This extension is about giving golfers what they want from one of our most popular designs."

Weights on the toe and heel section of the sole are also interchangeable. Players and fitters will have the choice between aluminum, steel and tungsten weights to help dial in the feel and performance that's preferred.

For that classic, soft Odyssey feel, the putters have a White Hot face insert and are equipped with a red Stroke Lab shaft for added speed control and consistency.

With four new shapes available (Double Wide, Rossie, Seven and Triple Wide CS), there's something for every golfer in the expanding Tri-Hot 5K lineup.

STILL GOOD FOR THE TAKING

Additional Callaway options

Rogue ST Max Driver

$450; 9.5°, 10.5°, 12°

The most forgiving model in the line; Callaway used artificial intelligence to optimize speed, forgiveness, launch and spin for the faces of each individual clubhead. There's also a substantial heavy back weighting in the sole with a new tungsten Speed Cartridge to drive weight rearward in the head, which reduces twisting at impact.

Rogue ST Max D Fairway Wood

$299; 16°, 19°, 22°

To enhance both stability and speed in its fairways, Callaway designed two Jailbreak structures that sit behind the extreme toe and heel portions of the A.I.-optimized faces; it's called Batwing technology. The winged design helps reduce speed loss on mishits but maintains speed by keeping the faces flexible. Max D is the draw-biased offering.

Rogue ST Max OS Hybrid

$550; 19°– 33°

The hybrid features a square-like shape that sits behind the toe and heel sections of the A.I.-optimized face to stiffen the structure on mishits. The oversize OS is ideal for golfers who struggle to consistently hit the center of the face.

White Hot OG Putters

$250

White Hot OG is a blast from the past, calling back to the original White Hot putters from decades ago. The nostalgic series combines updated versions of past head designs with the familiar soft feel of its White Hot face inserts.

JAWS Wedge

$180; 48°–60°

Built around razor-sharp grooves and a raw face, the JAWS Raw wedge is a favorite for many of Callaway's successful Tour pros, including seven-time winner Xander Schauffele.

Cleveland

FOUNDED ON SUPERIOR SHORT-GAME TOOLS, CLEVELAND IS BACK WITH OFFERINGS TO SAVE YOU STROKES ON AND AROUND THE GREEN

Wedges

56
MID
10
Cleveland
ZIPCORE
RTX6

RTX6 ZIPCORE

$170 / 46°–60°

PLENTY OF ZIP FROM EVERY CONCEIVABLE LIE

Wedges are like tires, they need to offer superior grip and control under any condition the environment throws at them; and, just like a fresh set of tires, Cleveland's latest wedges are packed with technology to take your short game to new heights.

RTX6 ZipCore wedge

Although the RTX6 wedges might offer the look of a traditional wedge, *tradition* is not the word I would use to describe all of the engineering packed into these short-game tools. As the name suggests, ZipCore is back but, this time, with an improved internal geometry that replaces heavy steel with a low-density core to remove unnecessary weight from the hosel and the heel side of the wedge.

This weight savings allows for more mass to be positioned higher and more toward the toe to enhance spin consistency on shots struck around the face, resulting in a 20 percent tighter dispersion compared to the previous RTX ZipCore, according to Cleveland's testing.

Add in that it also helps improve feel and you've got a winning technology.

"The RTX 6 ZipCore may have the classic look on the outside, but inside it's packed with three technological breakthroughs that give the advantage to the golfer and not the conditions," says Pat Ripp, Cleveland's Tour engineering manager of research and development.

Now that we have the mass properties sorted out, the next most crucial elements of a wedge are the face and grooves because without those you're not going to have any control. UltiZip grooves are back with the sharpest groove radii ever created by Cleveland to impart more spin and control. UltiZip has also added two extra grooves per wedge face compared to the previous generation to help get more bite and more stopping power.

"All the work put into this wedge, we really focused on finding the perfect balance of versatility and consistency," Ripp says. "UltiZip is a notable example. Without grooves you don't have a wedge, so we equipped the RTX6 ZipCore with our sharpest groove radii ever, imparting more spin and control, and now golfers won't have to worry how their wedge is going to react in certain conditions—they'll know."

But what about wet conditions? This is where Cleveland's HydraZip comes in. It utilizes a dynamic face-blasting process and laser-etched lines to maximize friction in wet and dry conditions. Through the R&D testing process, the RTX6 demonstrated 43 percent more spin in wet conditions compared to the previous generation.

> **"We focused on finding the perfect balance of versatility and consistency. UltiZip is a notable example."**

Spin is a good thing in many situations, but moisture generally saps the zip. Not RTX6—just point, click and shoot.

CBX Full-Face 2 wedge

If you're a golfer who wants a bit more help and a confidence-inspiring look at address, look no further than Cleveland's CBX Full-Face 2, which sports all the RTX6 technology built into a bigger and more forgiving package.

Although size is more of a design feature than technology, the Full-Face 2 offers up to 13 percent more contact area than the previous CBX Full-Face. More important is what the engineers at Cleveland do with that extra size by packing it with the same spin-enhancing technologies as the RTX6, including HydraZip face treatment, UltiZip groove pattern and Zip-Core to improve mass properties.

And speaking of mass properties, the wider sole and deep cavity design offer a significant improvement to overall MOI both up and down and across the face for better overall consistency. The deep cavity is filled with a GelBack pad to reduce vibration and enhance feel.

Frontline Elite putters

At the heart of the Frontline Elite series are high MOI designs featuring a forward center of gravity location made possible by using more than 30 grams of injection-molded tungsten to create the actual insert on the face. This places a greater amount of mass at the impact area to get the ball rolling online and staying online.

By having a center of gravity closer to the face, it produces less rotation at impact compared to a putter with a much deeper center of gravity.

This is counterintuitive to something like driver design in which a deeper center of gravity helps boost MOI, but it works well in putters because impact happens at much lower speeds, and face angle at impact represents a huge percentage of the golf ball launch direction at impact.

"For the Frontline Elite putters, we used more than 30 grams of metal-injection-molded tungsten across the striking area to move weight as far forward as possible," says Casey Shultz, product manager at Cleveland. "In a forward-weighted putter design, face rotation is significantly reduced on off-center strikes. So, even if you mishit your putt, your ball will stay more online, head toward the hole as intended and at the desired speed for more scoring chances."

Beyond being made of tungsten, the inserts in the Frontline Elite series are equipped with Speed Optimized Face Technology (SOFT), which are individualized groove patterns specific to each putter style. What it does is normalize the ball speed across the face to help create better distance control on off-center putts.

Unless you're a robot, it's face technology that can benefit all golfers.

CLUBTEST 2023

Proving Ground

Tim Reilly, GOLF.com Director of Commerce
Handicap: 10

Goals: Track down a reliable set of scoring tools that help me save a few critical shots during the round.

When I tell people I work at GOLF, they assume that means I'm a low-handicap golfer. I'm a 10 who struggles to get over the hump into the single digits. The potential is there, but I trip over my feet to take that next step to low-handicap glory.

My game stays where it is because of my consistency. I consistently keep the ball short and relatively straight. Unfortunately, I consistently make the same mistakes too. If I'm going to lower my handicap, short game is the logical focus for me. That's why I decided to give Cleveland's new RTX6 Zip-Core wedges a shot.

The first thing I noticed was the appearance. Granted, that might not mean much to the end result, but when a club looks appealing to my eye, it makes me feel more comfortable over the ball. There are grooves across the entire RTX6 clubface. Initially, I thought that was an odd visual, but then it was comforting to know this would help with mishits.

My second takeaway was its wide sole. It nearly doubles the size of my previous model and has a two-step sole appearance. I placed the club down on my carpet and began to play around with the clubface. This quickly made me realize the benefits of the RTX6 wide sole. The leading edge didn't feel as if it were raised up in the air. With an open face, I felt the club gliding across my carpet.

Then it was time to test. Quickly the distance benefits became apparent. I didn't go into this seeking out more yards with my wedges, but I certainly won't complain about it. The RTX6 ZipCore gave me an additional club of distance compared to my old set. I was surprised that the large clubface and wider sole still had a soft feel. My dispersion around targets seemed to improve, and I'll credit that to my confident swings and the club's full-face grooves.

While I think its grooves will get most of the attention, the RTX6's selling point is its wide, two-step sole. If your swing is steep or you struggle with chunking your wedges, it helps glide the club through lies rather than digging in. This is something that can really help in sand traps too.

I've been stubborn in thinking game-improvement irons mean a backstep in my journey to becoming a better golfer. Cleveland's RTX6 ZipCore wedges have opened my eyes.

Wedges

CBX FULL-FACE 2

$170 / 50°–60°

A GENEROUS WEDGE PROFILE WITH AMPLE SPIN

Putters

FRONTLINE ELITE

$249 (steel); $299 (graphite)

FORWARD CENTER OF GRAVITY TO HELP MAKE MORE PUTTS

> **“Even if you mishit your putt, your ball will stay more online, head toward the hole as intended.”**

STILL GOOD FOR THE TAKING

Additional Cleveland options

Launcher XL Driver

$250; 9.5°, 10.5°, 12°

Cleveland’s take on hitting the driver is a simple one: to make it as fun as possible. The Launcher XL head shape has a staggeringly high MOI and what the company calls a Rebound Frame for enhanced energy transfer back into the golf ball. Also, the driver comes with an adjustable hosel for ballflight control and an optional eight-gram weight placed inside the grip end of the shaft (it’s actually one-inch shorter than standard) for added feel. This model fits most golfers.

Scan this code to buy Cleveland drivers, irons and wedges at GOLF retail partner FairwayJockey.com.

Launcher XL Halo Fairway

$180; 15°, 18°, 21°

Featuring a bigger head with a higher MOI for added stability, the XL Halo fairway woods also include Gliderail tech on the sole for stability, a Rebound Frame for more energy transfer and Action Mass CB for improved balance and feel. The clubs are made to launch the ball with ease, helping golfers get the ball airborne from the fairway and tee.

Launcher XL Halo Irons

$800 / 7-PIECE SET

This set features a hollow body design with MainFrame face technology for more resilience and less distance and accuracy loss on off-center hits. Longer irons have Gliderail sole designs for more forgiveness and progressively transition to having V-Sole shapes in the shorter irons, and a three-tiered sole in the wedges—again, for forgiveness and more solid strikes. Additional tech includes a HiBore Crown Step design for a lower CG and loft-specific grooves.

Cobra

COBRA'S NEWEST LINEUP IS BUILT AROUND AN ULTRA-FAST DESIGN THAT TAKES SPEED TO A NEW LEVEL. MEET AEROJET.

Scan this code to buy **Cobra Aerojet** clubs at GOLF retail partner Fairway Jockey.com.

IF THERE'S ONE THING we love about Cobra Golf, it's the company's willingness to push the envelope in terms of form, function and design to help golfers of all skill levels. The company is not afraid to take risks, and, no matter what player type you are, it's a sure bet that there's a team huddled somewhere at Cobra HQ, working hard to help make sure you are getting the most from your game.

The new 2023 Aerojet line of drivers, fairway woods, hybrids and irons live up to that mantra, offering technology for every type of player seeking more speed, distance and forgiveness.

Aerojet drivers

Well, if the name wasn't already a dead giveaway, a key component of what makes the Aerojet faster is its new aerodynamic shaping that streamlines the front and rear of the club, along with the crown and sole, to help the clubhead move through the air with the least possible resistance.

"The aerodynamic package in the new Aerojet family of drivers is our most advanced to date," says Mike Yagley, Cobra's vice president of innovation. "We continue to balance the aggressive streamlining with optimum mass and resilience properties to give players maximum clubhead speed and ball launch characteristics for increased distance."

To put some numbers out there, according to Cobra's testing, the Aerojet LS produced 1.5 mph faster clubhead speed compared to the previous generation LTDx LS during robot testing—yes, you read that right, robot testing. Just like your hand out the window of a car, small tweaks to the design play a significant role in how much aerodynamic force can be reduced, and that's just the start.

The other key piece of the Aerojet design that is present across the line is the new internal weighting structure that Cobra engineers call PWR-Bridge. (From hats to driver technology, no vowels is very big right now.) The PWR-Bridge is

Drivers

AEROJET
10.5°
STD

AEROJET

$549 / 9°, 10.5°, 12°

SPEED WITH A BACK WEIGHT TO LAUNCH IT HIGH

AEROJET
LS
9.0°
STD

AEROJET LS

$549 / 9°, 10.5°

PENETRATING FLIGHT AND LOW SPIN IN A SLICK SHAPE

AEROJET
MAX
10.5°
STD

AEROJET MAX

$549 / 9.5°, 10.5°, 12°

GENEROUS SWEET SPOT WITH ADJUSTABILITY TO KILL A SLICE

a 13-gram weight structure that is suspended above the sole of the driver not only to precisely locate the center of gravity but also to allow the lower portion of the face greater flex. This more flexible area is made possible thanks to Cobra's new PWRShell face insert, which also features A.I.-powered H.O.T. (Highly Optimized Topology) variable face thickness.

Last but not least is something we've been hearing a lot about over the last few years: carbon fiber. Cobra is utilizing a raw finished carbon fiber for the crown and sole of the Aerojet drivers because it is 30 percent thinner, producing more discretionary mass for higher MOI and a lower center of gravity.

The standard Aerojet model is designed to appeal to the largest part of the golfing population bell curve and features the most aggressive aerodynamic shaping for faster club speed potential. For faster players, Aerojet LS offers a slightly more refined address profile intended to appeal to skilled golfers that demand lower launch and spin performance off the tee. And then there's Aerojet Max, the highest launching and most draw-biased option in the Aerojet line. It features a more triangular aerodynamic shape and dual weight ports in the rear and heel side of the head to provide even more draw bias when the heavier weight is placed in the heel.

Aerojet fairway woods

Don't for a second think speed and aerodynamics are just limited to the drivers; Cobra engineers were busy refining the shape of the fairway woods too. Other than being a bit smaller

3 Things Our Testing Robot Loved About Aerojet

(1) The big story surrounding last year's Cobra LTDx line was an incredible improvement in overall distance loss across all mishit locations in relation to shots hit out of the center. A penalizing miss was almost nonexistent. Ball speed retention remains a key storyline for '23, but it's clear Cobra pulled down hard on the ball speed lever. The Aerojet and Aerojet LS recorded two of the highest ball speeds of any driver in the testing lineup. It's also important to point out the ball speed number is an average of all nine points tested. Gary Woodland raved about Aerojet's speed after signing a multiyear deal with Cobra, but it's always difficult to tell the difference between organic feedback and marketing-speak. Based on what we saw from Aerojet during testing, it's the former in this case. The speed is for real.

(2) Rarely, if ever, does a mishit location produce a higher carry-distance number when compared to the geometric center. Of course, outliers exist in every test. For the first time that we can recall, the higher center impact location on Aerojet's standard head was roughly two yards longer than dead center. High center is always going to produce a performance dip—around three to four yards for most drivers we tested—when compared to a heel or toe miss, but the dip is minimal. Aerojet is one of those drivers that shakes things up. If ever there was a time to tee it up and reap the benefits of more distance, this is it.

(3) With a launch angle of 12.9 degrees, the Aerojet Max recorded the second-highest launch angle and spin rate of any driver model. As much as we all want to hit low-spin bombs, an ideal launch and spin rate are needed to optimize carry distance. Sometimes that means increasing the spin rate to gain more hang time. The Max is geared for those who struggle with consistent contact and need speed. In this case, it also comes with the ability to get the ball airborne with ease.

Fairway woods

AEROJET
3
15
STD

▲

AEROJET

$329 / 13.5°, 16.5°, 19.5°

A FAIRWAY OPTION FOR GOLFERS WHO NEED LIFT

AEROJET
LS
3
14.5
STD

▲

AEROJET LS

$329 / 13°, 16°

COMPACT LOOK WITH LOWER LAUNCH AND SPIN NUMBERS

AEROJET
MAX
3
15.5
STD

▲

AEROJET MAX

$329 / 14°, 17°, 20°

NECESSARY DRAW BIAS FOR THE HIGHER HANDICAP

Scan this code to see how Aerojet fared in robot testing in a special video on **GOLF.com**.

than the drivers, the fairway woods bear much of the same technology as the drivers including a PWR-Bridge weighting system suspended behind the face for increased ball speed, PWRShell H.O.T. face technology, a carbon crown, adjustable weighting (in the LS and MAX models) and an adjustable loft hosel.

Also, like the drivers, the Aerojet fairway woods come in three models: the standard Aerojet; the Aerojet LS for lower launch and spin; and the Aerojet Max for added lift, forgiveness and draw bias.

Aerojet hybrids

When it comes to hybrids, you need the right combination of speed and control, because distance isn't helpful if you don't know where the ball is going.

With the new Aerojet hybrids and irons, Cobra engineers have implemented driver technology along with improved forgiveness and stability to help you hit it higher, hit it closer and stop it faster.

There is a reason OEMs strategically produce lines of clubs rather than randomly throwing models into the marketplace—because much of the technology present in drivers can be refined down the line to offer consistent performance benefits to golfers.

Hybrids are possibly the most important part of this puzzle since they bridge the gap from the larger fairway woods down to the irons, and designers have to cram a lot of tech into a smaller head shape. The Aerojet hybrids is mission accomplished.

Think of the Aerojet hybrids as mini versions of the Aerojet driver, with PWRShell H.O.T. face and PWR-Bridge technology for added distance and improved performance through CG refinement. To help get the most face flex in a smaller package, the Cobra hybrids don't come with an adjustable hosel, but they are available in all the required lofts to help any golfer find the right combination into their irons.

Aerojet irons

Last and far from least is the new Aerojet iron, designed for players who not only want added forgiveness, but also an iron that cranks out additional distance in much the same manner as the Aerojet woods do.

The nomenclature is much the same here too: The irons come with PWR-Bridge technology that consists of a 70-gram steel weight that is completely separated from the face, body and sole of the iron. This specific design feature positions the CG low to optimize launch and creates the needed space for the body structure to flex freely resulting in more ball speed and added distance.

But wait, there's still more. In addition to the PWR-Bridge, the irons also come with PWRShell H.O.T. face technology for

Hybrids

AEROJET

$279 / 17°, 19°, 21°, 24°, 28°

DO-EVERYTHING HYBRID FOR THE MASSES

T-RAIL

$999 / 7-PIECE SET

GENEROUS SHAPE WITH RAILS THAT GLIDE THROUGH THE TURF

KING TOUR FORGED

$1,299 / 7-PIECE SET

SLEEK LOOKS FOR THE BETTER PLAYER WHO STILL NEEDS SPEED

an even faster ball speed. (Cobra tested these irons against its own LTDx irons and saw an increase of 10 percent more deflection resulting in upward of 3.5 more yards per strike.)

King irons

It's not often we see a top equipment manufacturer eschew the "pour every bit of technology we have into it" trend and opt for the lesser-seen "make something classic" strategy. But that's exactly what Cobra did with its all-new King Tour and King Tour CB/MB irons.

Before we delineate the details between each model, let's first recognize the star feature found in all three: a five-step forging process. The method begins with heating carbon-steel billets to 1,200 degrees, which are then rough-forged three times (steps 1 through 3) to form the base shape of the iron. Step 4 involves 1,200 tons (not a typo) of pressure at 800 degrees to refine the shapes and apply details and shapeliness. In step 5, each iron is subjected to 2,000 tons of pressure—which, if you need a visual, is the weight of 80 full-size fire trucks—at 700 degrees to form the steel into a more uniform and isotropic internal grain structure.

The net result is precision shaping and flatter clubfaces, tighter weight tolerances, better face thickness consistency and improved feel across the face.

The streamlined, low-profile, matte-finished King Tour is made for players who want the benefits that come from the aforementioned forging process with the feel-good benefit

cobra
KING
MB

The King lineup is geared for the better player who likes clean lines and smooth turf interaction through impact.

KING MB

$1,199 / 7-PIECE SET

CLASSIC SHAPE WITH WORKABILITY

CLUBTEST 2023

Proving Ground

Ryan Noll, GOLF.com Contributor
Handicap: 6

Goals: To get the most consistency and forgiveness—with a hint of shot-making capability too.

All three new Aerojet drivers from Cobra are built to do one big thing: boost ball speed to help all types of golfers hit it farther.

I started my test with the Aerojet LS, the dream driver for long hitters like Bryson DeChambeau and long-drive champ Kyle Berkshire, both of whom lent a hand in the club's design. And without belaboring it—and I certainly labored it in my test/trial—the LS seemed downright unfair. Because it's a low-spinner and packs a bevy of tech to help the clubhead move faster in the air and increase clubhead and ball speed, I found it to be just the driver for long hitters who want to be even longer. My best results came when I swung harder (that was kind of crazy and fun), but if I wasn't swinging at top speed I just couldn't get it off the ground. I suppose it'd be useful for someone who hits their drives with too much spin, but it wasn't my Goldilocks.

Next, I hit the Aerojet Max because I'm a glutton for confusion. Within two to three strikes it was evident that this driver produced a high launch with more spin. Furthermore, I didn't spec it out for a draw, but I was still hitting a high one. Hard to believe both drivers were in the same family, because they look and perform so differently. I found the Max to be much more forgiving, and I didn't slice the ball once. Distance-wise it wasn't as long as the missiles I hit with the LS, but I hit many more fairways.

The last of the three drivers I tried was the stock Aerojet, which, as you might expect, was my favorite.

I hit a pile of long drives, and the results coincided with what Cobra preached: I was averaging five to 10 more yards on drives that I hit solidly. And, as great as that is, what surprised me was the quality of my mishits. Because I tend to miss my drives toward the heel, I still produced very playable tee shots. A few times I tried to miss it on purpose, and, even though the ball flew a little lower with less distance, I was still able to hit shots pretty darn close to my intended target line. So, as solid and long as my good shots were, again, it was how forgiving my misses were that made the Aerojet my top pick.

Rounding out the Aerojet line, I tested the woods, hybrid and irons, all of which are very different than my gamers. I flat-out crushed the woods and hybrids; the Aerojet Max wood was my favorite because it's super-reliable and easy to hit. And I hit some iron shots that were two clubs longer than my go-to sticks.

In summary, the Aerojet line is a big win for golfers who need more distance not just off the tee but from just about anywhere on the golf course. Simple as that.

of an aluminum medallion and a TPU insert. Each iron has a CNC-milled undercut cavity within the back cavity, which repositions weight from high center to low center as well as more toward the heel and toe.

The sleekest and most compact irons in the King family, the CB (cavity-back) and MB (muscle-back) irons have thin toplines, reduced offset, thin soles and shorter blade lengths for max shot shaping. There's nothing added to these to enhance how they look, feel or work. The quintuple forging process is the reason each CB and MB has a precisely located CG for maximum efficiency and energy transfer at impact.

Irons

KING CB

$1,199 / 7-PIECE SET

MORE MISHIT PROTECTION IN A SHAPE FOR LOW HANDICAPS

Wedges

SNAKEBITE

$149 / 48°–60°

A THROWBACK PROFILE WITH PLENTY OF SPIN WHERE YOU NEED IT

STILL GOOD FOR THE TAKING

Additional Cobra options

Air-X Driver

$249; 9.5°, 10.5°

The lightest construction in the Cobra family, Air-X is designed for beginners and players with smooth tempos in need of extra pop. Other game-improvement features include heel weighting and a large, fast sweet spot that imparts greater speed no matter where you make contact. The driver tips the scales at just 277 grams.

King Forged RF MB Irons

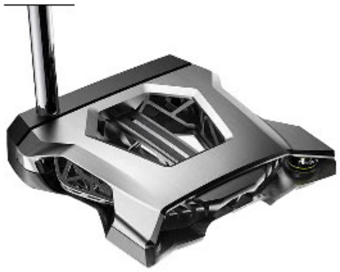
$1,399 / 7-PIECE SET

Codesigned with Rickie Fowler, the blade is forged from 1025 carbon steel and then machined using a 100 percent CNC-milling process. From start to finish, it takes 155 minutes to produce a single head. The lack of offset and ultra-compact profile scream scratch golfer, but a slug of tungsten in the toe adds extra stability and feel at impact.

King Forged Tec Irons

$1,199 / 7-PIECE SET

Underneath the hood of this 1020 carbon-steel iron is a hollow cavity filled with a light, vibration-absorbing foam that enhances sound, feedback and feel at impact. It's game-improvement performance with better-player looks.



King 3D Printed

$349

Produced in partnership with Hewlett Packard, this putter features light 3D-printed nylon lattice "cartridges" that help dampen vibrations at impact. The face is further enhanced by aluminum inserts from SIK Golf.

King Vintage

$249

Made from 304 stainless steel, the Vintage line is built around more traditional shapes with a splash of tech in the form of SIK Golf's DLT face to keep the roll consistent and true.

Shafts

IT'S TIME TO STOP OVERLOOKING THE SHAFT WHEN YOU'RE DRIVER SHOPPING. THESE FIVE OPTIONS CAN HELP.

VANQUISH
VENTUS
TR
ACCRA
TZ FIVE
70 MS
GRAPHITE DESIGN
6.5
70
LOW SPIN
HZRDUS
1
2
3
4
5

Mitsubishi Vanquish
$400

1. The lightweight Vanquish shafts use Amorphous Wire Tech in the butt section for increased activity in the handle and increased ball speed and clubhead acceleration.

Fujikura Ventus TR
$350

2. The three shafts (Red, Blue and Black) in the Ventus TR line each come with VeloCore Tech and a Spread Tow carbon fabric for improved performance and a smooth feel.

Accra TZ Five
$300

3. Made with high modulus fiber for a smoother feel and a low-launch ballflight. The low balance point and low torque rating contribute to lower spin.

Graphite Design Tour AD CQ
$500

4. Comes with Nitta 2G-Namd carbon-fiber material that tightly binds fibers together for a greater energy transfer with a higher launch and mid-level spin.

Project X HZRDUS Black GEN 4
$350

5. Designed to produce a stable low-launch ballflight with low-spin performance. The Dual Torsional design enables the shaft to have a low torque rating with a smooth feel.

Mizuno

WITH THE ST 230 METALWOODS AND JPX923 IRONS, MIZUNO IS OFFERING THEIR FASTEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE LINE OF CLUBS TO DATE—FOR ANY LEVEL OF GOLFER

Drivers

ST-Z 230

$500 / 9.5°, 10.5°

LOW SPIN AND A NEUTRAL FLIGHT FOR THE BETTER PLAYER

ST-X 230

$500 / 9.5°, 10.5°, 12°

DESIGNED WITH A DEEP FACE AND SLIGHT DRAW BIAS

ST-X 230 PLTNM

$550 / 10.5°, 12°

LIGHTER MATERIALS TO HELP YOU GAIN MORE SPEED

MIZUNO'S 2023 LINE OF CLUBS, including the ST 230 series woods, JPX923 irons and S23 wedges, round out a collection of products that offers endless fitting opportunities specifically designed to help different segments of the golfing population, from Tour players all the way down to higher handicap golfers. When Mizuno set out to design these clubs, they utilized data collected from their one-of-a-kind swing optimizer and fitting software along with feedback from their Tour staff and technical advisors to produce clubs that not only perform at the highest level but also look and feel great too.

ST 230 drivers

The key piece of technology across Mizuno's ST 230 line is the CorTech Chamber, which is a high-density stainless-steel weight encased in elastomeric TPU on the sole. The TPU material fills a through slot in the sole behind the face allowing for greater rebound and an expanded COR zone—meaning misses miss less and go farther. Across the entire ST 230 line the extra weight in the chamber serves a dual purpose by placing a heavy mass closer to the face, greatly lowering the center of gravity and lowering spin for a more stable ballflight.

"Our player testing over the years shows that placing extra weight close to the face results in faster ball speeds and low spin rates," says David Llewellyn, Mizuno's director of R&D. "We've been steadily working toward the CorTech Chamber, which is incredibly effective at that job. Encasing the steel weight within the TPU Chamber means that we're moving weight close to the face at the same time as creating an additional source of energy."

To go along with the CorTech Chamber both the ST-Z, which is the lower spin neutral option, and the deeper faced and slightly draw-biased ST-X driver models offer an adjustable hosel to dial in launch and spin with 4 degrees total of loft adjustability.

> **“Mizuno’s player testing over the years shows that placing extra weight close to the face results in faster ball speeds and low spin rates.”**

Fairway woods

ST-Z 230

$300 / 15˚, 18˚

ADJUSTABILITY AND A WHIP-SMART FACE FOR MORE SPEED

Hybrids

ST-Z 230

$250 / 16˚, 19˚, 22˚, 25˚

PLAYABILITY FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS

Irons

JPX923 HOT METAL

$963 / 7-PIECE SET

AN IRON THAT PERFORMS NO MATTER WHERE YOU STRIKE IT

There is also a lighter PLTNM version of the ST-X that uses overall lighter components to help golfers pick up speed and distance off the tee.

Speaking of lighter, the crown and sole of the drivers are each made from a single carbon-fiber plate, which, when compared to previous generations that have used multiple pieces of carbon on the sole, saves more mass to be ideally positioned around the heads.

ST 230 fairway woods

The Mizuno ST 230 fairway woods carry through with the ST-Z series and share the same adjustable hosel (2 degrees up or down for a total of 4 degrees of loft movement) and CorTech technology as the driver to boost ball speed and stabilize ballflight.

With the help of a carbon composite crown and high-energy MAS1C steel face and body the ST-Z fairway woods offer one of the most player-friendly profiles for golfers across the board. The size and shaping hit a perfect sweet spot with the 3-wood coming in at just over 190cc in volume, making it a perfect secondary option off the tee without making it difficult to hit from the fairway.

“The CorTech Chamber is very effective on the fairway woods and hybrids, as it does such a good job of lowering the sweet spot and helps in maintaining ball speed when you have to pinch one from a tight fairway,” says Chris Voshall, Mizuno’s head of product.

ST 230 hybrids

The ST-Z 230 hybrids offer playability for any level of golfer and feature all of the same technology as the ST-Z fairway woods, including the adjustable hosel, but in a smaller package. The shaping fits in between the previous CLK hybrid and

Scan this code to buy **Mizuno ST** woods at GOLF retail partner FairwayJockey.com.

Irons

JPX923 HOT METAL HL

$963 / 7-PIECE SET

AMPLE BALL SPEED PROTECTION AND SERIOUS HEIGHT

JPX923 HOT METAL PRO

$963 / 7-PIECE SET

GAME-IMPROVEMENT PERFORMANCE IN A COMPACT SHAPE

JPX923 FORGED

$1,313 / 7-PIECE SET

AN EYE-CATCHING PROFILE WITH PLENTY OF SPEED

the ST-Z fairway wood with a more rounded profile to push the center of gravity lower to increase launch and stopping power, so they can effectively replace longer irons and properly gap into the longer clubs in the bag.

Like the fairway woods, the ST-Z hybrids incorporate the CorTech Chamber into a high-energy MAS1C steel face and body, but with a steel crown made lighter by what Mizuno engineers call a "waffle crown," to shave mass from less stressed areas to help create better launch conditions.

JPX923 irons

With five models to choose from, the JPX923 iron line is not only Mizuno's most comprehensive to date, but it is also the most golfer and fitting friendly. It starts with the Hot Metal products, which are constructed from a strong yet flexible Nickel Chromoly material that allows designers to engineer more ball speed thanks to the material's properties.

"This is a good evolution from what we've been using," says Voshall. "We'd been using a standard Chromoly for the last few generations and gotten as thin as possible while still maintaining durability. Once we hit the ceiling, we started looking for something that offered the same customization to be fit to your proper loft and lie. But ultimately one that pushed ball speed forward as well. That's where we landed with the Nickel Chromoly. We looked throughout the world where strong materials were being used and noticed Nickel Chromoly was being used in areas where failure wasn't an option—like landing gear on airplanes."

Although expensive, Nickel Chromoly provides several measurable benefits. With all the Hot Metal products, it allows for the addition of a multi-thickness face design that's 8 percent thinner with a 16 percent larger COR area. The end result is more ball speed and deflection across a larger area of the face.

One of the standouts is the newest JPX923 Hot Metal HL (High Launch), which shares all of the same technology as the core Hot Metal iron but in a profile and spec package that helps get the ball up in the air faster and with longer carry. These irons will be found especially helpful for the golfer who struggles with distance along with apex height and needs help getting the golf ball to stop faster once it hits the green.

"There are so many different kinds of players looking for increased ball speed from their irons; we needed more options for them at a fitting level," Voshall says. "The custom studios use shaft selection incredibly well to help with launch angle or slower swing speeds, but the JPX923 Hot Metal HL gives golfers a great new tool to work with."

On the other end of the spectrum is the JPX923 Tour irons that offer premium looks and feel in a Tour-level iron that packs

“The goal was to engineer a compact cavity-back that looked and felt like a muscle-back at impact.”

Scan this code to see how Mizuno clubs fared in robot testing in a special video on **GOLF.com.**

JPX923 TOUR

$1,313 / 7-PIECE SET

COMPACT PROFILE WITH A BUTTERY FEEL AT IMPACT

a lot of hidden forgiveness thanks to its V-chassis cavity design.

“The goal was to engineer a compact players cavity-back that looked and felt like a muscle-back at impact,” says David Llewellyn. “With the copper underlay and new topline, the JPX923 Tour is right there.”

For golfers looking to combine distance with a premium forged feel, the JPX923 Forged is a one-piece forged iron made from a stronger grain flow forged Chromoly steel that allows Mizuno engineers to push the limits of face thickness.

“The new JPX923 Forged pulls off two impressive achievements,” asserts Voshall. “First, it feels more solid even though it’s faster from the face. Second, it looks sleeker with a thinner topline and narrower sole, even though it plays more forgiving.”

S23 wedges

When engineers are designing wedges, they are always looking to maximize two very important parameters: spin and versatility. The newest S23 wedges from Mizuno achieve both with flying colors. Spin generation comes from a variety of technologies, including the loft-specific quad-cut grooves milled into the boron-infused 1025 mild carbon steel and Mizuno’s laser-etched HydroFlow micro grooves to channel additional moisture away from the impact zone faster for reduced spin loss in wet conditions. An additional design feature of the HydroFlow micro grooves, which act like the tread on a tire

CLUBTEST 2023

Proving Ground

Jack Hirsh, GOLF.com Assistant Editor
Handicap: 1

Goals: Find more accuracy with driver, consistency and playability with irons and versatility with wedges.

Ever since I got fit for clubs the first time, I’ve played Mizuno irons. Naturally, I was pumped to draw the Japanese athletic company for ClubTest, but, this year, there’s more to be excited about than just their irons.

For the driver, I was fit into the new ST230 Z line. The key behind these clubs this year is the new CorTech Chamber, which Mizuno says was its “missing piece.” The chamber is a molded stainless-steel weight encased in TPU material positioned on the sole, just behind the face. It allows the sole to flex at impact, adding speed and forgiveness. I was already pretty maxed out from a speed perspective with the driver, but the ST-Z (the lower spinning of the two models) proved to have equal pop and significantly added forgiveness compared to my gamer.

The fairway woods were easy to hit and surprisingly fast thanks to their low profile and the CorTech Chamber as well. I was able to break 160 mph ball speed with the 3-wood, with a touch more spin than my previous gamer.

The irons were what you’d expect from Mizuno’s legendary forging house. I went with a split set of the new JPX 923 Forged and Tour irons. For the 4- through 7-iron in the JPX923 Forged, I noticed about 1 to 2 mph of ball speed gains while also seeing slightly higher spin and peak height numbers. This ended up meaning these irons flew a few yards farther than my old ones while stopping quicker.

In the scoring irons with the JPX923 Tour, you’d be forgiven for thinking you were hitting a conventional blade when swinging before you realize the sweet spot is a reasonable size. As a pure player’s iron, these clubs allow me to work the ball in any direction, and the slight cavity gives me wiggle room with mishits. Not to mention the coppery underlay feels amazing.

The S23 wedges were a big surprise. Mizuno shortened the hosel and added a cavity on the heel side of the wedge to move the sweet spot away from the heel. Now it's easier to get solid strikes, with a sweet spot closer to where wedge shots are typically struck. That, plus the forging, makes these wedges feel incredible.

Wedges

S23

$160 / 46°–60°

SPIN AND VERSATILITY WITH A NUMBER OF UNIQUE FINISHES

> **“That spin you see from the pros isn’t purely because of newer grooves. A centralized sweet spot makes it much easier to get that action.”**

to channel moisture away, is that they’re laser-etched onto the face before the final plating, which prolongs their life span compared to traditional laser-etching done at the end of the wedge finishing process.

When it comes to versatility, the S23’s unique cavity shaping and profile overhaul includes a shorter hosel and a heel side shallow cavity to push an extreme amount of mass toward the toe. This toe-sided pad creates a perfectly centralized sweet spot for greater trajectory control on shots hit all over the face thanks to less deflection at impact.

“That check and spin you see from the pros isn’t purely because of newer grooves—most of us don’t have the consistency of strike to get that kind of action,” says Llewellyn. “For the vast majority, a centralized sweet spot makes it much easier to find and get that repetitive action.”

The S23 wedges aren’t short on options either and come in either a satin chrome or darker copper cobalt for extra glare reduction, as well as loft-specific grinds to help you find the correct sole design for your swing and short game.

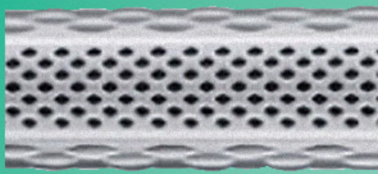
STILL GOOD FOR THE TAKING

Additional Mizuno options

Mizuno M-Craft OMOI

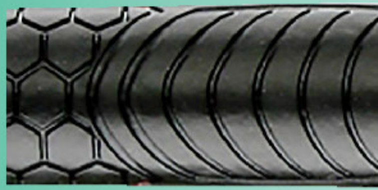
$350

As much as golfers want to believe they can pick up a putter and head to the course, it doesn’t always work out that way. For this exact reason, Mizuno is offering adjustable heel-toe weights on their new OMOI putters to dial in the overall build. With three weight options (three, eight and 13 grams), it’s possible to make the heavy head even more substantial to reduce unwanted twisting at impact.

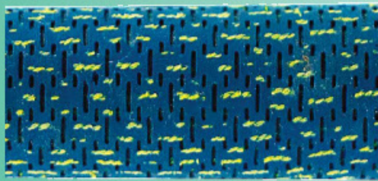


1

2

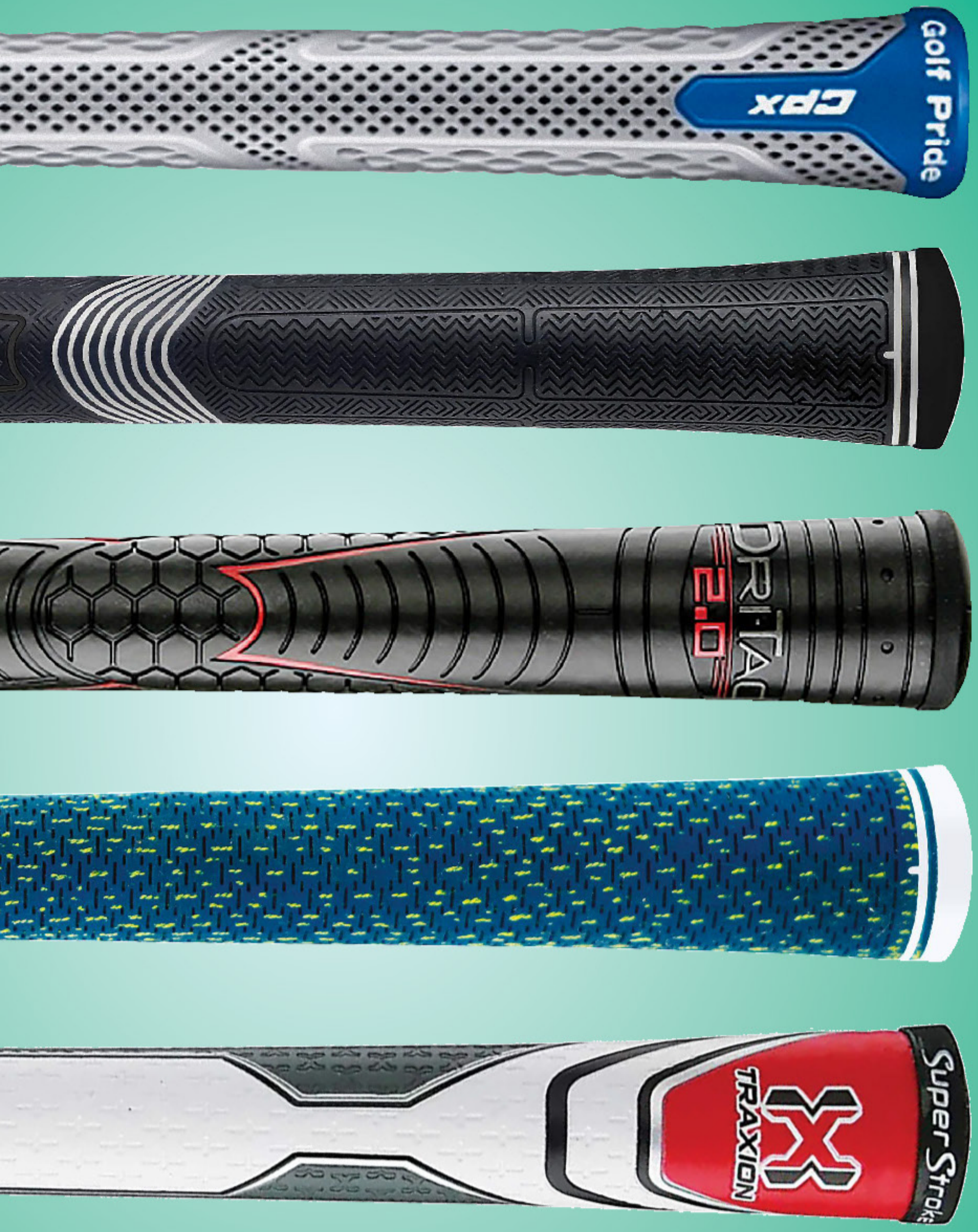


3



4

5



Grips

NOT ALL GRIPS ARE CREATED EQUAL. THESE FIVE HANDLES CAN TAKE YOUR GAME TO A NEW LEVEL IN ’23.

Golf Pride CPx

$10 each

1. The CPx comes with a specially designed EXO quilted pattern to reduce vibration and maximize hand comfort while also reducing fatigue during the round.

Lamkin Sonar+ Black

$12 each

2. This comes with Lamkin’s Genesis material and FingerPrint Texture Tech in a unique grip pattern for added comfort and a secure hold. The material is softer yet more durable than rubber.

Winn Dri-Tac 2.0

$9 each

3. Comes with the latest in Winn’s polymer grip technology for a slip-resistant feel in all weather conditions and reduced hand fatigue.

Lamkin UTX Green/Blue

$11 each

4. The UTX Green or Blue comes with Tri-Layer Technology developed for players with fast swings that require extra torsional control and vibration dampening.

SuperStroke Traxion Tour

$8 each

5. Made with a polyurethane outer layer with a firm rubber core for added stability, comfort and control during the golf swing.

PING

WITH THE G430 LINE, PING IS NOT ONLY UPPING THEIR GAME ON FORGIVENESS BUT PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES ON DISTANCE AND SPEED, ALL WHILE IMPROVING FEEL AND SOUND

The G430 line of woods and irons are about more than just forgiveness. When it comes to the drivers, PING engineers cranked up the speed with the help of a shallower and thinner VFT forged face design packed with the same Spinsistency technology the equipment manufacturer first debuted in its previous generation fairway woods and hybrids. The complexly curved clubface features a modified roll profile with less loft on the lower portion to normalize spin, increase ball speed and offer more consistent distance. In similar fashion, the G430 irons bring together sharper looks and more distance thanks to a new and more flexible face structure that reacts like a big trampoline to get the ball flying higher and farther. As a bonus, every club in the PING G430 line has the option of being tuned to an HL (High Launch) configuration to make them play lighter, which allows them to be swung faster, resulting in more distance for players with moderate swing speed.

G430 drivers

The G430 line brings together three distinct models to help golfers find the right fit for their game, leading to more distance off the tee. "The combined distance gains throughout the entire G430 family are like nothing we've seen from one generation of clubs to the next," says PING CEO and President John K. Solheim. "Our approach with G430 has been to find more speed and deliver it in a way that contributes to lower scores and more enjoyment on the course. That includes providing a level of forgiveness that remains unequaled."

The G430 Max offers a neutral shape and the highest MOI. "[It's] the workhorse," added Solheim. "It fits every skill level, from Tour players to higher handicaps. The increases in ball speed are remarkable, and the sound is creating a very favorable conversation."

For those golfers who struggle with a persistent fade off the tee, the new 460cc G430 SFT (Straight Flight Technology) is

Drivers

G430 MAX

$600 / 9.5°, 10.5°, 12°

ALL THE FORGIVENESS YOU CAN HANDLE WITH AMPLE SPEED

G430 LST

$600 / 9.5°, 10.5°

LOW-SPIN OFFERING WITH GAME-IMPROVEMENT PERFORMANCE

G430 SFT

$600 / 10.5°

A SLICE KILLER WITH ONE OF THE TIGHTEST DISPERSIONS AROUND

designed around a 22-gram movable tungsten backweight that delivers 13 yards of right-to-left bend in the standard draw setting and another seven yards in the draw-plus for 20 yards total.

"Our SFT technology reinforces our commitment to custom fitting," Solheim says. "It's a tremendous option for golfers who consistently slice the ball. The reality is more golfers could benefit from this type of technology, so we've added the two-setting backweight to allow for further adjustments in shot bend as necessary."

To round out the G430 driver line, the LST (Low Spin Technology) model offers a slightly smaller footprint for golfers who need lower spin off the tee. After studying the benefits of carbon fiber, PING added a lightweight composite wrap (Carbonfly wrap) that covers the crown along with the heel and toe sections of the skirt. The eight-layer, one-piece composite saves four grams that went back into the head to lower CG for more speed and less spin.

"With recent manufacturing advancements and the smaller head size of the G430 LST, the time is right to bring this technology to golfers," says Solheim. "It's quickly becoming the favorite of our Tour players, who are enjoying the ball speed gains while raving about the look, feel and sound."

All of the PING G430 drivers share the eight-setting Trajectory Tuning 2.0

Scan this code to buy PING G430 woods at GOLF retail partner FairwayJockey.com.

3 Things Our Testing Robot Loved About G430

(1) This is going to sound like a broken record, but PING's G430 line is built on some of the best stability in the marketplace. The average carry-distance loss across all three models is 9.3 yards—the smallest delta produced by any manufacturer in our robotic testing process. Starting with the most obvious observation feels like we're burying the lede, but there's something really interesting in this year's numbers. PING's fully loaded G430 LST is geared for low launch and spin, which tends to come at the expense of off-center strikes with a more forward center of gravity. In the past, the Max model was the way to go for inconsistent contact. Not so fast, my friend! With a single-digit carry distance delta (9.7 yards)—we take the geometric center carry number and compare it to the other eight mishit locations on the face—G430 LST soundly beat several "game-improvement" models by six or seven yards. Even more impressive? High toe misses ended up just two yards behind center strikes.

(2) It's time to start taking PING seriously in the ball speed department. As mentioned above, the ball speed retention is back in a big way. But so is pure ball speed. Yes, PING is going after some of the biggest names in the equipment industry with a driver that can go toe-to-toe in a distance battle. The G430 Max was just 0.3 mph behind the fastest driver in our robot test—a difference that's all but within the noise as far as we're concerned. Yes, the most forgiving model in PING's driver lineup is exceptionally fast. It should also be noted that the driver had an impressive single-digit carry distance loss (8.3 yards).

(3) Consistent carry numbers tend to mean tight dispersion numbers. With this in mind, it should come as no surprise to see the G430 Max and G430 SFT near the top of the overall dispersion. Inconsistent sticks rejoice!

Fairway woods

MAX
PING
G430
3 15

G430 MAX

$385 / 15°, 19°, 21°, 24°

A RELIABLE OPTION THAT DOES IT ALL FROM EVERY LIE

SFT
PING
G430
3 16

G430 SFT

$385 / 19°, 22°

SLIGHT DRAW BIAS FOR GOLFERS WHO NEED SOME SLICE HELP

Hybrids

PING
G430
4 22

G430

$325 / 16°, 19°, 22°, 26°, 30°, 34°

PLENTY OF LOFTS TO REPLACE LONG IRONS

hosel that adjusts loft plus or minus 1.5 degrees and lie angle up to 3 degrees flat to allow for absolute ballflight fine-tuning.

G430 fairway woods

The G430 fairway woods come in two models that carry over from the driver line with the MAX and SFT utilizing the same Carbonfly wrap construction as the G430 LST driver to save weight from the crown and place it low and around the head to increase forgiveness. PING's Facewrap design employs a variable thickness, high-strength maraging-steel face that wraps into the sole and crown of the stainless-steel head to promote a more efficient face flex at impact for more distance. To further retain distance on shots hit around the face, especially on shots hit from tight lies in the fairway, the variable roll radius (Spinsistency) on the lower section of the face rewards thin shots by reducing overall spin for more carry.

G430 hybrids

The Carbonfly wrap continues once again into the G430 hybrids and nets a total of eight extra grams of discretionary weight that's allocated to other areas of the head, including a tungsten backweight, for ball speed and acoustic purposes.

The same Spinsistency and Facewrap technology found in the fairway woods—the wrap design adds a consistent transfer of energy—is part of the hybrid lineup, which consists of six loft options. The multitude of lofts makes it possible to

Irons
PING
G430

▼

G430

$1,101 / 7-PIECE SET

MULTI-MATERIAL MAGIC FOR THE HIGHER HANDICAP

▼

i230

$1,312 / 7-PIECE SET

AN IRON FOR THE ELITE BALL STRIKER WHO STILL NEEDS SPEED

CLUBTEST 2023

Proving Ground

Nick Piastowski, GOLF.com Senior Editor
Handicap: 14

Goals: Find long-iron consistency and better distance off the tee and put together a real wedge setup for every short-game situation.

I was fitted for PING G430 clubs, but what I was really given was a break. My driver was approaching its 15th birthday, and the tech—or, more to the point, its pop—reflected that. I had trouble hitting irons lower than a 6 consistently. I had just one wood—a 7. I had just one wedge. I had been working too hard with this gear setup. And golf is hard enough.

Let's start with the driver. James and the PING gang were focused on getting this club right for me. "If we do nothing else today, we're going to get you a better driver," a PING staffer said. They did, with some notes. We'll get right to what you're wondering: The G430 added 15 to 20 yards at the PING range, and that carried through to two sessions on another range and two live rounds. It was easy power too. This isn't going to be the most technical-sounding description, but there was a "slap" sensation on contact, and the ball "jumped." To be honest, though, I appreciated more what the G430 did on misses. When I hooked or sliced, I was still in play.

With the woods, Lee was concerned with my club gapping, and we added a 3 to give me an option between the driver and 7. This is my favorite addition. It's a weapon on par 5s, with the same "jump" feel as the driver. We also added a 4- and a 5-hybrid and dropped the 4- and 5-irons. Maybe this is a tip for the player, who, like me, can't play longer irons well: Hybrids can be more forgiving. This was James' idea, and it worked well. The PING models had a "smooth" feel to me off the face and just their look gives you more confidence—they have a bigger face than I was expecting.

The G430 6- through 9-irons also had a larger clubhead than I had been playing, though each had a lighter feel. Most notably, they cut rough without issue. The wedges, though, have been the biggest relief. My one wedge—the wedge—is the strength of my game. I can control shots well for my 14-handicap game from 100 yards and closer, despite the fact that I was having to adjust my swing based on various yardages. As for flop shots, I really had to twist my body and turn my wedge—the wedge—to drop one in. But, yeah, clubs can do this work, and these do.

> **“[PING hybrids] have earned a reputation as easy-to-hit, reliable gapping solutions to mid- and long irons.”**

replace almost any long or mid-iron in the bag with a fast, high-launching hybrid.

“The popularity of our hybrids continues to grow,” says Solheim. “They’ve quietly become one of our most successful categories. They’ve earned a reputation as easy-to-hit, reliable gapping solutions to mid- and long irons known mainly for their forgiveness.”

G430 irons

Touted as PING’s “longest iron ever,” the multi-material PING G430 iron offers a lower center of gravity with stronger, custom-engineered lofts and a thinner face. The trio of improvements leads to an additional 2 mph ball speed across the entire face on average and better gapping from club to club in the set so you know which club to pull from what distance with confidence.

“Our ability to make this iron so much longer while maintaining all the other important attributes golfers need from their irons like forgiveness, stopping power and gapping alternatives is one of the most impressive engineering stories throughout the entire G430 line,” says Solheim.

The multi-material PurFlex cavity badge is the engine behind the G430’s newfound speed. The badge’s seven flexible zones allow for more face bending to help produce that increased speed. The badge also serves a second acoustic benefit by suppressing unwanted vibrations for a solid feel (and sound) at impact, regardless of where the ball is struck on the face. New visual improvements also make the G430 iron look more compact from behind, even though they offer a huge amount of forgiveness.

PLD putters

The PING PLD putter series is a collection of their most popular Tour-validated models, 100 percent custom-machined with a premium level of detail and precision from 303 stainless steel. The models include everything from the long-standing Anser and Anser 2 to the more modern DS72 used by PGA Tour player and multiple winner Viktor Hovland. If you are looking to go the extra mile with your next putter, PING also offers a Tour-level custom-fitting experience through their PLD program at PING headquarters for $1,300, which includes the PLD putter, entirely custom for you.

STILL GOOD FOR THE TAKING

Additional PING options

PING
BLUEPRINT
FORGED

Blueprint Irons

$1,039 / 7-PIECE SET

With short blade lengths, less offset and narrow soles, PING’s Blueprint blades are the choice for high-caliber PGA Tour winners such as Tony Finau and Louis Oosthuizen. The forged 8620 carbon heads have machine-milled faces and grooves, giving precise ball strikers the spin and flight control they need. These are for the elite.

Scan this code to see how the new PING G430 drivers fared in robot testing in a special video on GOLF.com.

PLD Milled Putters

$485

Recognizing that not every golfer can spring for a $1,300 custom putter, PING created PLD Milled to fill an important slot in the putter program. The four Tour-inspired models in the matrix are fully machined from forged 303 stainless steel and undergo four hours of milling time before coming off the production line.

PING 2023 Putters

$300

Unlike the Tour-inspired PLD, the 2023 was initially created with the regular golfer in mind. With the focus placed squarely on the consumer, PING sought to include a myriad of head, face and alignment options to capture every conceivable player preference with distinctly different feels and looks. On several models, a color-blocking scheme on the topline contrasts with a black cavity, moving the focus to the front. Tungsten heel-toe face weights can be found in some models for improved accuracy.

SRIXON

MAJOR POWER

SRIXON
ZX7
Mk II
9.5
SRIXON
ZX5
Mk II
9.5

ALL-NEW ZX MK II WOODS

Major Champions go farther because they put power where it counts. You'll do the same with new ZX Mk II Woods. With Rebound Frame technology, they flex twice at impact. It's a more efficient power transfer for incredible ball speed. And it's only from Srixon.

SRIXON
SRIXON
SRIXON
SRIXON

PXG

WHETHER IT BE THE MANUFACTURING PROCESSES USED TO CREATE THEIR IRONS OR THE FORGIVENESS IN THE METALWOODS, PXG PUSHES EVERYTHING TO THE LIMIT TO HELP GOLFERS GET MORE FROM EVERY SWING

Drivers

0311 GEN5

$299 / 7.5°, 9°, 10.5°

ALL-AROUND PERFORMANCE IN AN UNDERSTATED LOOK

0311XF GEN5

$299 / 9.5°, 10.5°, 12°

EXTRA FORGIVENESS AND STABILITY TO BOOT

Fairway woods

0311 GEN5

$249 / 13°, 15°, 18°, 21°

EASY SPEED WITH A SLIGHTLY LOWER LAUNCH ANGLE

PXG's GEN5 SERIES IS ENGINEERED to help golfers quickly and easily find the right models for their game by placing clubs into distinct categories throughout the line.

"We absolutely killed it with these clubs," PXG founder and CEO Bob Parsons has said, emphatically. "Gen5 is better in every way possible. From explosive distance to tight dispersion to the oh-so-sweet feel of forgiveness on every shot, these clubs are a master class in performance."

Although their game-changing irons are the backbone of PXG's core lineup, the Gen5 drivers, fairway woods and hybrids come equipped with plenty of adjustability, including adjustable hosels and weights to allow golfers to further fine-tune their ballflight. Even for golfers on the higher end of the handicap spectrum, adjustability is a good thing.

And with the built-in segmentation in the irons, the shared aesthetics offer the perfect opportunity to build blended sets for added forgiveness just where you want it.

0311 Gen5 drivers

PXG drivers come is two model options, the standard 0311 for all-around performance and the 0311XF for ultimate forgiveness. They are both engineered with a high MOI for standout stability and distance, as well as being purposefully designed to offer an understated look in your bag and behind the ball.

Both drivers feature a bevy of tech both hidden and visible, including a large, high-speed Ti412 clubface with variable face thicknesses, aluminum vapor carbon-fiber crown and the signature PXG weights strategically placed around the perimeter of the sole for maximum ballflight control and adjustability.

The aluminum vapor technology used to produce the carbon crown increases the stiffness and stability of the material, which then reinforces the face to help create better energy transfer at impact. Compared to a traditional titanium con-

“The all-carbon crown has been a game changer. The use of higher modulus materials allows us to keep the mass low for numerous performance benefits.”

0311XF GEN5

$249 / 16°, 17°, 19°, 22°

A GENEROUS PROFILE TO HELP KEEP THE BALL IN PLAY

Hybrids

0311 GEN5

$249 / 17°, 19°, 22°, 25°

FAIRWAY WOOD PERFORMANCE IN A HYBRID PROFILE

0311XF GEN5

$249 / 19°, 22°, 25°, 28°, 31°

RELIABLE LONG-IRON REPLACEMENT

struction, the lightweight carbon also saves mass in the crown, which can be redistributed low and to the perimeter of the clubhead for optimal CG and added forgiveness.

“The all-carbon crown has been a game changer,” says Brad Schweigert, PXG’s chief product officer. “The use of higher modulus materials allows us to keep the mass low for numerous performance benefits. We’re doing things we’ve never been able to do with our drivers.”

To further make sure that each Gen5 driver gets right to the limit of ball speed, PXG used a highly precise robotic polishing process to get the face to the correct final thickness and to optimize the face curvature to ensure absolute peak performance.

Performance isn’t the only thing of importance to the engineers at PXG. The Gen5 drivers have also been acoustically tuned using model analysis to produce the ideal impact sound preferred by golfers.

0311 Gen5 fairway woods

The Gen5 fairway woods use the same model segmentation as the drivers and come in standard 0311 and 0311XF versions, with the standard 0311 being the lower spinning of the two and the 0311XF being the slightly higher spinning and easier to launch option.

Like the drivers, the fairway woods utilize AV (aluminum vapor) carbon crowns to save mass and increase MOI. The most interesting aspect of this type of construction is that, even while covering a smaller surface area, the carbon crown on the fairway woods saves more mass to be repositioned than the driver, because it replaces steel rather than titanium. Speaking of steel, the fairway woods’ body consists of a high-strength AM355 steel, while the face is made from an elastic HT1770 to produce faster ball speeds.

The standard 0311 has a flatter sole, and the XF has a lowered rail design for better turf interaction and versatil-

Irons

TUNGSTEN
PXG
0311 P GEN5
SX FORGED/MILLED

0311P

$1,393 / 7-PIECE SET

FORGIVENESS AND DISTANCE IN A MIDSIZE SHAPE

TUNGSTEN
PXG
0311 T GEN5
SX FORGED/MILLED

0311T

$1,393 / 7-PIECE SET

TOUR-INSPIRED HEAD PROFILE FOR THE BETTER PLAYER

TUNGSTEN
PXG
0311 XP GEN5
SX FORGED/MILLED

0311XP

$1,393 / 7-PIECE SET

GENEROUS OFFSET AND A WIDE SOLE FOR MAXIMUM PLAYABILITY

ity. The versatility of the fairway woods doesn't stop at the shaping and sole design, because PXG offers the Gen5 fairways woods in designated lofts from 13 degrees all the way to 21. That's before you use the adjustable hosel, which supplies an extra 3 degrees total of loft adjustment. For golfers who struggle with building proper gaps with their fairway woods, there is truly something for everyone.

0311 Gen5 hybrids

By combining all of the same technology—including the AV carbon crown, high-strength HT1770 steel face and adjustability to create perfect gapping into your irons—the Gen5 hybrids pick up where the fairway woods left off.

"Even with utility irons increasing in usage, hybrids remain a key long-iron replacement option for a large majority of golfers," Schweigert says. "It's important to have multiple options in the line to fit all our different player profiles. The 0311 and 0311XF do exactly that."

The standard 0311 is a midsize hybrid with a square toe profile that helps align the head to the target more consistently and serves a secondary purpose by increasing the overall clubface size to expand and boost its COR zone. The 0311XF hybrid offers a shallower profile with an elongated toe and more expanded profile to increase forgiveness and launch and to help the ball carry farther.

0311 Gen5 irons

Although they immediately catch your eye with their distinctive looks, the Gen5 iron series technology starts at the core, thanks to a new, lighter internal material called XCOR2 and a power channel behind the face. XCOR2 is PXG's revolutionary lightweight polymer core material, designed specifically for Gen5 irons to help reduce mass in the middle of the head. This mass savings enables more weight to be positioned low and to the perimeter of the clubhead to dramatically increase forgiveness and fine-tune launch characteristics depending on the model.

"The core polymer and our structure form a symbiotic relationship," says Schweigert. "Together, they get us better performance and face deflection. If you were to remove the polymer, the face would dent in one hit."

Other features include an ultra-thin clubface supported by the XCOR2, made from HT1770 maraging stainless steel—the same material found in the fairway woods and hybrids. The faces are manufactured using a cold rolling process combined with a heat treatment to produce an extremely tight grain structure and a high-strength finished product. Combining this material and process is one of the many things that enables PXG engineers to design the thinnest clubface in golf.

That thin HT1770 steel face is precision laser welded to a soft five-times forged 8620 carbon steel body that is then fin-

“Generating speed and deflection is important, but it was also important to focus on increasing launch and decreasing spin to gain distance in a smart way.”

Scan this code to see how a PXG driver fitting helped a 12-handicap pick up nearly 20 yards in a special video on GOLF.com.

ished through CNC milling to exacting specs. The centrally located weight is used during the fitting and build process to finalize the precise build specs.

“Generating speed and deflection is important,” says Schweigert, “but it was also important to focus on increasing launch and decreasing spin to gain distance in a smart way.”

Each of the three available Gen5 iron models offers elegant shaping and progressive design characteristics to fit the target golfer. The 0311T is a Tour-inspired head for better players who want added workability in a forgiving iron while still having a thin sole and topline.

The 0311P model offers added forgiveness and more distance in a midsize head shape, with additional offset and a slightly thicker topline to inspire confidence behind the ball.

Finally, the 0311XP is the largest iron in the Gen5 family, and with it comes the most offset, widest sole and thickest topline to deliver extreme forgiveness and playability.

0311 Sugar Daddy II wedges

The PXG 0311 Sugar Daddy II wedges build on the long-standing reputation of the originals, to offer a series of 100 percent milled wedges produced to exacting specifications. The milling process ensures that each triple-forged 8620 wedge offers consistent performance club after club, so you can feel confident you’re getting everything out of your short game.

CLUBTEST 2023

Proving Ground

Alan Bastable, GOLF.com Executive Editor
Handicap: 12

Goals: Add more distance and consistency to irons and smooth out uneven gapping in my wedges and hybrids/fairway woods.

Before this makeover, *mish-mash* was not only a good word for my set makeup but also for my game. I’m relatively steady, but I also have a steep, sawed-off swing and a left shoulder dip that leads to too many chunked, distance-sapping irons. The dated tech in my bag wasn’t helping matters, either. Time to upgrade!

It took me all of about one swing with a 0311 Gen5 XP 7-iron to understand what I’d been missing. The ball jumped off the face as if propelled from a rocket launcher. That was thanks in part to a polymer core that helps keep the mass low in the clubhead while also allowing for a thin, springy face. The results were eye-popping: I picked up an average of 8.4 mph of ball speed, 19 yards in carry distance and a 13-foot increase in apex.

Next up: the big dog. PXG has two driver offerings in its premier line: the Gen5 0311, built for speed and distance, and the Gen5 0311XF, designed more for forgiveness. I landed in the XF, largely because the slightly larger face, deeper head shape and 6 percent higher MOI than the 0311 helped tighten up my dispersion. Versus my gamer, I picked up an extra mph of ball speed and five yards of carry distance (258.1 yards).

One of the other big issues with my set was the 25-yard distance gap I had between my 4-iron equivalent hybrid (22 degrees) and 4-wood (17 degrees). I also increasingly found myself chunking more 3-woods off the fairway. The solution: Dump my 3-wood, pick up a new 0311XF 4-wood (17 degrees) and pair that with two 0311XF hybrids (19 and 22 degrees). My gamer-wedge makeup also lacked proper gapping. Beyond my PW, I had only a 52 degree and 60 degree, which didn’t give me enough trajectory options around the greens. The solution: Ditch the 52 degree and add both a 50-degree gap wedge (from the 0311XP family) and a 54 degree to better bridge the divide to my lob wedge (60 degrees), both of which came from the fully milled Sugar Daddy II line.

The great thing about getting fit is it eliminates those nagging questions about whether your gear is holding you back. When your clubs are dialed in to optimize your strengths—and minimize your weaknesses—you arrive on the tee with confidence and a sense of calm. My set is now more complete, which means so, too, is my game.

0311 GEN5 SUGAR DADDY II

Wedges

$399 / 50°–62°

PREMIUM MILLING WITH PLENTY OF GRIND OPTIONS

> **“We’ve taken our signature 0311 Forged Wedges to the next level, perfecting every surface, curve and groove.”**

“We’ve taken our signature 0311 Forged Wedges to the next level, perfecting every surface, curve and groove to help you master your short game,” says CEO Parsons. “Without a doubt, these are some of the best-performing, best-looking wedges on the market. Period.”

Beyond just the construction, the Sugar Daddy II wedges feature full-face grooves and high-toe weighting to properly align the sweet spot with the impact area for maximum spin and control.

The culminating touch of the Sugar Daddy II wedges are two grind options intended to deliver the greatest level of control and versatility.

As a bonus, both grind options are available in every loft in the line.

The BP-Grind is contoured for lush turf conditions, softer sand and golfers with a steeper attack angle who take larger divots. It has a wider sole that thins into the heel for extra bounce when the face is opened up.

The C-Grind offers versatility for golfers on the other end of the spectrum by having a narrower sole more ideal for those who are shallower, play in firmer conditions or are just looking for the ultimate in greenside control and shotmaking.

STILL GOOD FOR THE TAKING

Additional PXG options

Battle Ready Putters

$299

In addition to the stealthy looks and high-tech material combinations, the Battle Ready putters use a Pyramid Face Pattern to help improve ball velocity, launch angle, spin rate and skidding. The putters also have two adjustable heel-toe weights in the sole to fine-tune weight and performance for all players.

0211 Putters

$179

PXG’s fresh take on visual alignment aids is called “runway reticle.” The arrow-like design on the crown of the 0211 is designed to help with face awareness and control throughout the stroke. Cast from 303 stainless steel, each model comes with milled Pyramid Face Patterns to help improve ball speed on mishits for better distance control on putts of all lengths.

Scan this code to read more in-depth reviews and ratings of all PXG clubs on GOLF.com.

Srixon

SRIXON'S ZX MKII IS THEIR MOST INNOVATIVE AND AGGRESSIVE LINE OF CLUBS TO DATE, DELIVERING MAJOR PERFORMANCE, POWER AND FEEL

Drivers

ZX5 MKII

$499 / 9.5°, 10.5°

CONFIDENCE-INSPIRING PROFILE LOADED WITH FIREPOWER

ZX5 MKII LS

$499 / 8.5°, 9.5°, 10.5°

LOWEST SPINNING OFFERING IN THE NEW DRIVER LINEUP

ZX7 MKII

$499 / 9.5°, 10.5°

COMPACT PROFILE WITH ADJUSTABLE HEEL-TOE WEIGHTS

The full line of Srixon MKII (pronounced "mark two") clubs were designed around delivering more power at the most crucial part of the golf swing: impact. With updated technologies from top to bottom, golfers are going to experience more efficient energy transfer on every shot in the metalwoods and better feedback with the updated iron line that was created with direct input from Srixon's major-winning group of staff players, including Hideki Matsuyama and Shane Lowry.

A key design detail of the MKII series is the matte-black finish on the metalwoods, which presents a confidence-inspiring and distraction-reducing look behind the ball so you can focus on your target. The irons are distinctly Srixon while also being newly updated to offer the most pure feel possible on every shot.

ZX MKII drivers

The power in the ZX MKII woods comes from Srixon's Rebound

3 Things Our Testing Robot Loved About ZX MKII

(1) The three new ZX MKII driver models from Srixon represent a unmistakable shift in performance compared to past models, especially with the introduction of the new low-spin ZX5 MKII LS head, which produced some of the lowest spin numbers of any driver we tested in the 95 mph clubhead speed range for 2023. **(2)** Even more impressive, the ZX5 MKII LS produced 250 rpm less spin than Srixon's previous low-spin model when averaging the spin rate across all nine face impact locations. What exactly does this mean? It shows that the improved Rebound Frame has a positive impact on overall face consistency. **(3)** The standard ZX5 is still considered a lower spinning head and produced, on average, only 100 rpm more spin above the ZX5 LS. The ZX7 offered more robust ball speeds along with very similar spin numbers to its predecessor, which helps golfers looking for a more workable driver off the tee gain some extra distance too.

CLUBTEST 2023

Proving Ground

James Colgan, GOLF.com Assistant Editor
Handicap: 12

Goals: Narrow the dispersion of my worst shots while improving my gapping throughout the bag.

Contrary to popular belief, life as an exceedingly, boringly, flounderingly average golfer is not glamorous. The golf existence of a 12.3, per the USGA, is not filled with center-cut drives and greens in regulation but, rather, with mind-numbing, skull-rattling inconsistency.

Off the tee was one area of particular concern—but not with the ZX MKII, whose sweet spot felt roughly the size of a two-by-four. Heel and toe hits that would normally result in massive misses suddenly started working back toward the center. Center-face strikes produced a neat little fade. After a few minutes, I was hooked. The center on the MKII might not be larger than any other 460cc driver on the market, but it sure feels that way.

As I worked my way through the bag, I saw similar trends. The face on the ZX MKII fairway woods is hot—thanks in part to a "floating weight pad" Srixon calls Cannon Sole. The extra mass makes it easy to bottom-out the club at the point of impact, setting up ideal launch conditions. I saw a similar trend with the hybrid, which remains the only club I've ever put in my bag after only five swings.

I was particularly excited to try the new ZX MKII irons. Srixon's blades have earned a cult following in recent years among golf fans, and after a few swings I knew why. PureFrame, a piece of ultra-thick 1020 carbon steel forged behind the sweet spot of each club, reduces unwanted vibrations for an impact feel that can be described only as buttery. Srixon says the iron I tested—the ZX7—is a "true players iron," and I suppose, technically, they're right, but the MKII series sports game-improvement level forgiveness.

More than any one addition, I was struck by this line's ability to maximize good outcomes. For average golfers like me, avoiding disaster is often the biggest difference between success and failure on the course. With the MKII line, I feel as though I'm infinitely better equipped to make good things happen with a club in my hand.

Ultimately, that's the line of demarcation for this year's line of clubs. Hopefully, it'll also be the line of demarcation for me on my journey into the single-digits.

REBOUND FRAME
SRIXON
ZX
Mk II
3 15

Fairway woods

ZX MKII

$280 / 13.5°, 15°, 18°, 21°

WORKS THE GOLF BALL WITH EASE

Scan this code to buy all **Srixon ZX MKII** clubs at GOLF retail partner FairwayJockey.com.

Frame, which is in its second generation. This frame creates multiple areas in the all-titanium head for the face and body to seamlessly flex to create better energy transfer to the ball, resulting in more ball speed and more distance. To put a number on it, Srixon says the newest generation offers a 10 percent larger Hi COR area on the face to help maintain maximum ball speeds over a larger area.

"Rebound Frame is a unique ball speed system that delivers a pure transfer of energy into the ball at impact," says Jeff Brunski, vice president of research and development. "The result is an entire driver head that works in unison to deliver an unprecedented rebound effect that delivers maximum ball speed and, ultimately, more distance."

Behind the face is a secondary ring made of thin areas that deform during impact, like springs on a trampoline. Once those springs rebound, more energy is effectively transferred to the ball. To support the flexible Rebound Frame, the titanium crown utilizes a Star Frame construction that uses a series of ridges to support and strengthen it without adding extra weight. The saved discretionary mass is then used around the various driver models to produce ideal launch and spin characteristics.

ZX MKII fairway woods and hybrids

The ZX fairway woods and hybrids incorporate much of the MKII driver technologies, but the Srixon engineers went fur-

Driving Irons

ZX MKII

$239 / 18°, 20°, 23°

SLEEK LONG-IRON REPLACEMENT FOR THE BETTER PLAYER

ZX4 MKII

$1,300 / 7-PIECE SET

ASTOUNDING SPEED IN AN APPEALING CAVITY-BACK SHAPE

ZX5 MKII

$1,300 / 7-PIECE SET

SLEEK DESIGN GEARED FOR A WIDE RANGE OF HANDICAPS

ther with the fairway woods' Cannon Sole that places a "floating" weight pad—which sits like a cresting wave toward the face—in the sole to properly position the center of gravity for ideal launch and spin. To free up additional discretionary mass, lower the center of gravity and boost forgiveness, the 3+ and 3-wood swap out heavier steel for a thin carbon crown. Another mass-shifting feature of the fairway wood is a stepped-down crown design that helps in alignment and further lowers the center of gravity. Add in the more curved leading edge and you have fairway woods that offer maximum playability from any lie. The ZX MKII hybrids combine all of the fairway wood tech into a compact hybrid design to produce iron-like consistency with fairway wood power.

ZX MKII irons

Srixon irons have long been renowned for their power, performance, looks and feel, and with the MKII irons the engineers at Srixon have elevated every characteristic from the previous generations.

"The technologies driving the exceptional performance of the ZX MKII irons are really exciting to launch and get into golfers' hands," says Srixon's General Manager Brian Schielke. "Longer distances, improved feel, more control and greater consistency are seen throughout each new iron set, and they provide a seamless transition for building a combo set."

It starts with feel and the Tour-validated ZX7. The club features Srixon's innovative PureFrame cavity design, which places a thicker raised ridge in the central portion of the cavity behind the sweet spot. This portion of the cavity is 80 percent thicker than the thinnest areas of the cavity, leading to a remarkably soft yet solid feeling at impact that doesn't sacrifice any of the ZX7's famous Tour-level workability.

The other irons in the MKII line, including the ZX4, ZX5 and the new ZX Utility iron, utilize Srixon's A.I.-driven MainFrame technology to create a milled pattern of channels and cavities on the backside of the iron clubface to enhance ball speeds on shots hit across the face structure. The design allows each head in the set to flex in strategic spots based on common misses in order to magnify ball speed and increase carry distance. It also serves another important purpose: repositioning mass away from the face and placing it in the toe for stability and increased overall MOI.

Each iron model features Srixon's popular Tour V.T. sole grind, placing more bounce toward the leading edge to help improve turf interaction, especially for golfers with less consistent strike patterns. A notch can also be found in the sole, which lessens drag by reducing the amount of material contacting the ground. The weight saved from the notches is also discreetly placed around the perimeter for additional stability.

SRIXON
ZX
Mk II
FORKFRAME

ZX7 MKII

$1,200 / 7-PIECE SET

TOUR-LEVEL WORKABILITY FOR THE SINGLE-DIGIT STICK

SRIXON
Z-FORGED II

Z-FORGED II

$1,200 / 7-PIECE SET

BUILT FOR THE ELITE BALL STRIKER WHO PRIORITIZES FEEL

> **"Longer distances, improved feel, more control and greater consistency are seen throughout each iron set."**

For better spin control and management through the MKII series, the irons have progressive grooves found throughout the sets. This puts wider grooves in the long and mid-irons (3–7) for ideal launch and spin performance, and then sharper, narrower and deeper grooves on the short irons (8-PW) to impart more spin and control for approach shots, especially from the rough and inconsistent lies.

Another smart addition? Every iron in the 2023 ZX lineup has the same topline thickness, making it easy to mix and match models.

The final model in Srixon's iron line is the elegant yet performance-driven Z-Forged II muscle-back blade. The Z-Forged II offers exceptional feel and precise control for players who demand the utmost in shot-shaping management. Designed in close collaboration with Srixon's professional Tour staff, the Z-Forged II features a sharp profile from address, a solid forged construction crafted from soft 1020 carbon steel and the highly workable V.T. Tour sole design.

INSIDE GOLF

GET MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK!

More than $100 in value for $20. Renew your current GOLF magazine subscription for free when you join **InsideGOLF.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS START AT $1.99 A MONTH OR $20 A YEAR. IT PAYS FOR ITSELF WITH...

- $20 instant credit to shop for GOLF merch at our **Pro Shop**
- Exclusive, members-only content on **GOLF.com**
- 50% off Green Books and GPS app from **GolfLogix**
- $100 off qualified purchases from **Fairway Jockey**
- $50 off a swing evaluation or clubfitting at **GolfTEC**
- 50% off virtual lessons from **Skillest**
- Early access to limited-edition products in the **GOLF.com Pro Shop**
- Free monthly giveaways and other rewards
- Plus the free one-year subscription to **GOLF magazine** (non-U.S. members will receive digital editions)

Scan the code at left to instantly join InsideGOLF, home of the best content and buying deals in the game!

HEAT MAP
5 YARD GRID
7
© GolfLogix
PUTT BREAK
5 YARD GRID
7
© GolfLogix
1-121
2-106
28'
1-105
2-90
1-83
2-68
33'
57'
100
50
0
2 (-15)
1
©GOLFLOGIX
#7
YARDS 107
PAR 3
HNDCP 16
GRN DEPTH 24y
120
98
FIND COURSE

NEW

Green Books 2.0 with Yardage Guides

Get detailed and accurate tee to green yardages and contours for every hole.

GET 20% OFF
Your First Green Book

USE CODE **GOLFMAG**

FIND COURSE

1

Heat Map

Analyze precise green slopes and know where to aim to nail your approach shots

2

Putt Break

Gain confidence in your read so you can sink more putts

3

Yardage Guides

Featuring elevation above sea level, distance from each tee box, distance to the green and green depth.

Green Books
GolfLogix

greenbooks.com

TaylorMade

TAYLORMADE'S STEALTH 2 AND P-SERIES ARE BUILT TO TAKE YOUR GOLF GAME TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH BREAKTHROUGH TECH

TAYLORMADE'S MISSION has always been to create the best performance-golf products in the world. With their new Stealth 2 woods and P-Series irons, they've implemented changes across the line based on feedback from some of the best players in the world. Beyond player feedback, TaylorMade designers are also pushing the limits of golf club engineering by using new processes and materials in the manufacturing to get more forgiveness, accuracy and distance to every golfer.

Stealth 2 drivers

The standout feature of the Stealth 2 line is the nano-textured 60X Carbon Twist Face, which has a newly optimized profile on the back of the face that incorporates TaylorMade's famous Inverted Cone Technology (ICT) to better maintain ball speeds on shots hit away from center.

This is achieved by moving around layers that run through the face structure to produce thicker and thinner areas, the by-product being a face that is two grams lighter than the original (24 grams versus 26 grams) yet stronger than before.

The final piece of the carbon puzzle is a rear ring that connects the components of the driver. Rather than using aluminum, as TaylorMade has in the past, the Stealth 2's rear ring is composed of a lighter and stronger carbon-fiber-reinforced composite.

"The modular carbon body construction of Stealth 2 represents our commitment to carbon as the leading material in every TaylorMade driver we produce," says Tomo Bystedt, TM's senior director of product creation, carbonwood and metalwoods. "It was clear that the breakthroughs we had with Stealth were just the beginning in terms of the performance we can extract from this technology platform. A primarily carbon-based head construction is revolutionizing where we are able to position mass in a driver, and this allows us to finely tune the launch, spin and MOI in each of

Drivers

STEALTH 2
SPEED POCKET
TaylorMade
9.0

▲

STEALTH 2

$599 / 9°, 10.5°, 12°

A CARBON DRIVING MACHINE FOR THE MASSES

STEALTH 2
PLUS
DRAW
TaylorMade
9.0

▲

STEALTH 2 PLUS

$629 / 8°, 9°, 10.5°

SMART ADJUSTABILITY FOR THOSE WHO NEED TO MOVE THE BALL

STEALTH 2
SPEED POCKET
TaylorMade
HD
10.5

▲

STEALTH 2 HD

$599 / 9°, 10.5°, 12°

A SLICE WHISPERER WITH IMPROVED CONSISTENCY

the three Stealth 2 driver models."

This lighter ring has allowed engineers to free up more discretionary mass to place in the inertia generator weight in the rear of the drivers. In the case of the Stealth 2 Plus, it freed up five more grams to place in the sliding adjustable track for greater ballflight control. Add in these new features with the existing aerodynamically tuned shape, hosel adjustability and Thru-Slot Speed Pocket and you have a finely tuned carbon driving machine.

Stealth 2 fairway woods

The biggest benefit of the new Stealth 2 fairway wood line is the greater separation between the three Stealth 2 models (Stealth 2, Stealth 2 Plus, Stealth 2 HD) to provide a better fit for players across a much wider spectrum. The standard-model Stealth 2—the one most golfers will gravitate to—offers all of the familiar technologies including 3D carbon crown, V-steel

> **"It was clear that the breakthroughs we had with Stealth were just the beginning in terms of the performance we can extract from this tech platform."**

3 Things Our Testing Robot Loved About Stealth 2

(1) The latest carbon-fiber face structure attached to Stealth 2 is designed to retain ball speed on those common misses, and, based on what we observed during robotic testing, it more than lives up to the hype. TaylorMade's Stealth 2 and Stealth 2 Plus were the fastest driver models we tested on the Golf Laboratories robot. In some cases, Stealth 2 beat some competitors by 3 to 4 mph, which is somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 yards. Golfers who tend to miss low on the clubface will find minimal distance loss on drives hit on the lower-third area. Launch angles and spin rates were both higher among other models tested. What makes those numbers even more impressive is the fact that it's an average of all nine points on the face. **(2)** The Stealth 2 Plus is an intriguing option for those who require low launch and spin characteristics. With the lowest launch (10 degrees) of any driver tested—and an equally low spin rate—this model isn't for the golfers who struggle to get the ball airborne. In fact, a look at the launch and spin numbers for Stealth Plus and Stealth 2 Plus confirm TaylorMade is trying to decrease both characteristics in a big way. According to the robot, Stealth 2 launched 1 degree lower with 300-plus rpm less spin than the Stealth. **(3)** Speaking of spin rates, rpm dropped across the board for all three models. On average, the Stealth 2 and Stealth 2 HD were roughly 300 rpm lower spinning than their predecessors. The launch angle for Stealth 2 also decreased by a degree but remained unchanged for Stealth 2 HD. TaylorMade's first crack at Carbon Twist Face produced some impressive numbers, but, as you'd expect from the second go-around, they're making noticeable improvements to areas that should lead to more ball speed and better downrange dispersion. That's a win for all.

Fairway woods

STEALTH 2

$349 / 15°, 16.5°, 18°, 21°, 24°

IMPRESSIVE SPEED WHERE IT'S NEEDED

STEALTH 2 PLUS

$449 / 15°, 18°

JUST CALL IT THE SWISS ARMY KNIFE OF FAIRWAY WOODS

STEALTH 2 HD

$349 / 16°, 19°, 22°

A FAIRWAY WOOD DESIGNED TO HIT DRAWS FOR DAYS

sole design and Thru-Slot Speed Pocket for better ball speed retention on shots hit lower on the face.

"Advanced ICT takes a proven TaylorMade concept and pushes it to the next level," says Matt Johnson, principal engineer of advanced design. "We've now optimized variable face thickness for each individual club, so that every face on a Stealth 2 fairway or Rescue has been specifically engineered for that club. This design feat is a testament to our team's relentless drive to improve on every aspect of our products year after year."

The new Stealth 2 HD is one of the highest MOI fairway woods TaylorMade has ever produced, and it is going to help golfers who struggle with traditional 3-woods.

Finally, the titanium-faced Stealth 2 Plus model offers the most dramatic upgrade, with the standout feature being a massive 50-gram sliding weight track in the sole that can shift the center of gravity in order to alter launch and spin.

Stealth 2 hybrids

Similar to the fairway woods, the Stealth 2 rescues come in three options to offer a better fit for every golfer: the standard Stealth 2 model, the Stealth 2 HD for draw-biased forgiveness and the Stealth 2 Plus for maximum workability. Both the standard Stealth 2 and the HD models come with a fixed hosel design and a more rounded wood-like profile to inspire confidence behind the ball, along with a V-steel sole to help reduce turf interaction from any lie. To round out the hybrid options, the Stealth 2 Plus comes equipped with an adjustable hosel and a taller, more iron-like face profile for golfers who are looking for extra workability.

P770 irons

The new P770 delivers slim "blade-like" looks with a head packed with technology. Hidden inside the forged hollow body—and behind the fast 4140 face—is up to 45 grams of tungsten to increase launch and add forgiveness. SpeedFoam Air, a favorite of the P700 line, is injected into the cavity of the new P770 to deliver a premium sound and feel without sacrificing the rebound characteristics of the hollow design.

"P700 Series irons need to be technical, elegant and timeless, and the new P770 design has all of that in spades," says Matt Bovee, TaylorMade's director of irons product creation. "We wanted to take as much performance and hide it on the inside of the iron to where it looks like a clean and classic iron. On the inside, the technology we have poured into this iron creates a product that we believe is truly one of one in this space."

The Stealth HD iron is a completely new design intended to increase the likelihood of what TaylorMade calls a "successful" shot out on the course. Armed with an extremely low profile, a stepped sole, rounded leading edge and capback hollow design, the Stealth HD iron is the highest launching and spinning iron in the TaylorMade iron line, and it is also equipped with a slight draw bias.

With direct feedback from the best players in the world—

Hybrids

TaylorMade
STEALTH 2
SPEED POCKET
3
19°

▲

STEALTH 2

$279 / 19°, 22°, 25°, 28°, 31°

HITS ALL THE TOUGH CARRY NUMBERS

STEALTH 2
PLUS
SPEED POCKET
RESCUE
3
19.5°

▲

STEALTH 2 PLUS

$299 / 17°, 19.5°, 22°

A TECH BUMP WITH A HIGHER FACE PROFILE FOR GOOD PLAYERS

TaylorMade
STEALTH 2
HD
SPEED POCKET
4
23°

▲

STEALTH 2 HD

$279 / 20°, 23°, 27°, 31°

A WORTHY OPTION IF LONG IRONS ARE STILL A PROBLEM

including Collin Morikawa and Rory McIlroy, along with other members of the TaylorMade Tour staff—the newest P7MB and P7CB irons offer subtle refinements for the discerning player to inspire confidence and encourage exact shotmaking. The innovation in the 1025 carbon steel head comes from its manufacturing process. In order to build the P7MC and MB, engineers utilize a five-step forging process, with a final 2,000-ton press to produce a tight and compact grain structure in order to offer the most consistent and solid feel possible.

Spider GTx and GT Max putters

With the launch of the Spider GTx and GT Max models, 2023 marks another year of Spider putter innovation. The Spider GTx brings together well-known Spider technology, including True Path and Pure Roll, combined with a deep center of gravity made possible thanks to a heavy 154-gram stability bar at the rear of the putter to create the signature Spider look.

The GT Max offers something TaylorMade championed in drivers almost 20 years ago: movable weight. The adjustable weight of the Spider GT Max helps change the closure rate of the clubhead during the golf swing. The only difference? In this case, we're talking about a putting stroke, not a driver swing, to keep putts online.

Scan this code to buy **TaylorMade Stealth 2** woods at GOLF retail partner FairwayJockey.com.

CLUBTEST 2023

Proving Ground

Ryan Barath, Senior Editor (Equipment)
Handicap: 5

Goals: As a mid-single-digit handicap, my goal with any new clubs is to help minimize misses, gain distance with my longer clubs and help control excessive spin.

For GOLF's '23 ClubTest, I got to visit The Kingdom, TaylorMade's headquarters and Tour-fitting facility in Carlsbad, Calif., for a day of testing the brand's new-for-2023 offerings, including the Stealth 2 woods and P-Series irons. The experience did not disappoint.

My biggest issue off the tee, and with longer clubs, is too much spin that robs me of distance. And it was very clear from the start that, of the three Stealth 2 driver models, the Stealth 2 Plus was going to be the club that offered the lowest spin opportunity and the extra ability to dial in the center »

Irons

7
P·7MB
FORGED

P7MB

$1,299 / 7-PIECE SET

DESIGNED WITH FEEDBACK FROM THE BEST IN THE WORLD

7
P·7MC
FORGED

P7MC

$1,299 / 7-PIECE SET

BUILT FOR THE ELITE PLAYER WITH A TOUCH MORE FORGIVENESS

7
P·770
TUNGSTEN
FORGED

P770

$1,225 / 7-PIECE SET

THE LOOKS OF A BETTER-PLAYER IRON WITH MORE SPEED

Proving Ground

CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

▶▶ of gravity—all thanks to the adjustable sliding weight in the front of the driver. The end result was a 9-degree head lofted down slightly with the weight in the heel position. This yielded 250 rpm less spin compared to my previous driver.

Thanks to the continuity of the full Stealth 2 line, I also found the best fit with the Stealth 2 Plus 3-wood and 5-wood, both adjusted with the sliding weight on the sole to the lowest spin setting closest to the face and lofted down with the adjustable hosel one click. The final piece of my long game was the Stealth 2 Plus 19-degree rescue.

For my irons, the clubfitting result was a combo set that included the new P770 irons (4-6) with forged hollow construction and the one-piece forged P7MC irons (7-PW). This combination offered the best of both worlds, with stronger lofts and more forgiveness in the longer irons and a smaller profile with the shorter clubs, which blended perfectly into the Hi-Toe3 wedges. Rounding out my newly fitted set was a slant neck Spider GT Max, with the weight all the way forward to help with face rotation.

In the end, my hang in The Kingdom once again proved just how much can be accomplished when setting the right goals going into a fitting and how effective adjustability on modern golf clubs can be when getting dialed into the right number for my swing. If you're looking for more distance through spin reduction in your long game, the Stealth 2 Plus models might be a great place to start.

STILL GOOD FOR THE TAKING

Additional TaylorMade options

MyStealth 2 Plus Program

$730; 9°, 10.5°

Custom wedges, putters and golf balls are everywhere you look. But what about custom drivers? In the last few years, major manufacturers have added a new level of customization to the longest club in the bag. For TaylorMade, that level of customization commenced two years ago with the introduction of MySIM2, a program that allowed golfers to personalize every aspect of the driver, down to the face tuning pins.

The MyStealth 2 Plus program builds upon last year's MyStealth with new areas to customize, including the crown logo, topline, ring and adjustable sliding weight.

TaylorMade also offered six different face colors to choose from with MyStealth. The latest version has expanded the offerings to an impressive nine.

Having recently gone through the program, we can attest: It's extensive. That being said, the site is easy to navigate and allows you to see how the driver will look once it's completed with a three-dimensional image that changes as you make color selections.

Simply drag and rotate the club. That's it.

9
P·790
TUNGSTEN

P790

$1,299 / 7-PIECE SET

A SLIGHTLY BIGGER VERSION OF P770 WITH EXTRA OOMPH

7
TaylorMade
STEALTH
HD

STEALTH HD

$999 / 7-PIECE SET

A GENEROUS SHAPE THAT PROVIDES IMMENSE SPEED

Putters

MAX
TaylorMade

SPIDER GT MAX

$449

ADJUSTABLE WEIGHT FOR YOUR PUTTING STROKE

Titleist

WITH AN OPTION FOR EVERY SKILL LEVEL, TSR HAS FOUND A WAY TO TOP THE EVER-POPULAR TSI THAT TOOK THE INDUSTRY BY STORM

Drivers

TSR1

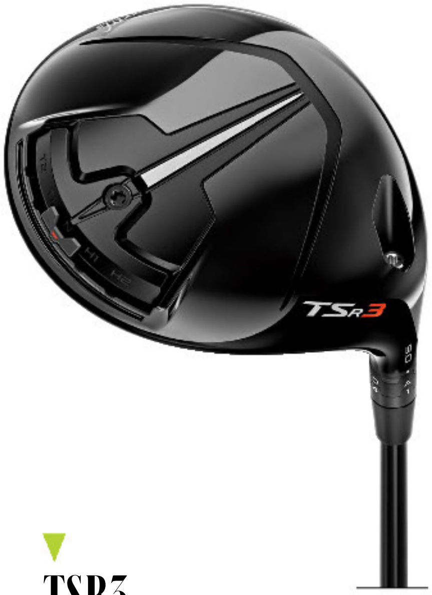
$600 / 9°, 10°, 12°

LIGHTWEIGHT WEAPON WITH A RED-HOT DRIVER FACE

TSR2

$600 / 8°, 9°, 10°, 11°

IMPRESSIVE SPEED AND ROCK-SOLID STABILITY



TSR3

$600 / 8°, 9°, 10°, 11°

A STUNNING PROFILE WITH ENDLESS ADJUSTABILITY

TITLEIST FOLLOWS A DIFFERENT release cadence when compared to its peers, which means you've likely seen the TSR2, TSR3 and TSR4 woods already. The TSR1 is a new addition for 2023, but we'll get to it in a moment.

As the most-played woods in the professional ranks, Titleist has continued to produce winning products that not only benefit Jordan Spieth, Max Homa and Will Zalatoris, but also every handicap. Loaded with proprietary materials and technology, the equipment manufacturer continues to push the limits of equipment design with its ATI-425 face and a range of adjustability that makes it possible to fit any golfer under the sun.

TSR drivers

TSR drivers build on the continued success that the TSi and TS series had before with golfers of all skill levels. For the engineering team at Titleist, the message from the top down was clear: "Don't mess up a great thing."

Before going any further, it's important to highlight TSR's face material: ATI-425 titanium. Manufactured in the United States by Pittsburgh's Allegheny Technologies Incorporated (ATI), ATI-425 offers distinct advantages to conventional titanium used in golf. This proprietary material offers 30 percent higher ductility, along with higher yield and tensile strength, which is a complicated way of saying it allows engineers to push manufacturing to higher tolerances for face thickness. With two more years of refinement and testing since the launch of the TSi, engineers have again saved more weight from the face to be positioned around the head to create stability without ever sacrificing durability.

The TSR2 has been reengineered from the inside out to deliver more ball speed, stability and a look that fits more in line with the rest of the TSR series.

If there was one peeve of top players, it was that the TSi2 was "a little angular" around the toe, but the new TSR2 has

TSR4

$600 / 8°, 9°, 10°

A LOW-SPIN OPTION FOR THE ELITE PLAYER PROFILE

Fairway woods

TSR1

$349 / 18°, 20°, 23°

LIGHTWEIGHT TO LAUNCH IT INTO THE STRATOSPHERE

TSR2

$349 / 15°, 16.5°, 18°, 21°

A FAIRWAY OPTION GEARED FOR NEARLY EVERY GOLFER

adopted a more natural pear shape, like its TSR3 brother, which checks boxes for looks and also helps with aerodynamics.

The biggest external upgrade to the TSR2 is a mini diffuser to smooth out airflow and allow the driver to be swung up to 0.5 mph faster at 100 mph swing speed. That might not seem like much, but when you're pushing up against the USGA limits, it's a really nice bonus. The diffuser is designed to work the same way as a diffuser on a Formula 1 race car, by stabilizing airflow behind the head and allowing it to move faster.

With the TSi3 being Titleist's most popular model with professionals, it was a challenge to make the club better, but it's also easy to see why the uptick with players was immediate once the TSR3 was released.

The TSR3 follows a similar path of the improvements to the TSR2, thanks to a newly designed face insert and a subtly reshaped skirt and sole for better aerodynamics.

The TSR4 also offers a smaller head profile at 430cc. It's one of the few sub-460cc drivers on the market.

Although targeted to a small segment, Titleist and outside fitters found there were golfers who really liked the smaller profile of the TSi4 but needed more spin, so the engineers designed a best-of-both-worlds option for the new TSR4. The interchangeable forward and rear weights allow the driver to offer the lowest spin head in the forward position, and when reversed the TRS4 becomes a smaller and slightly more workable version of the TSR3—still low spin but not too low that mishits become unmanageable.

3 Things Our Testing Robot Loved About TSR

(1) Consistent spin isn't something golfers ask for when they start testing the latest driver wares, but it's a benefit that can mitigate penalizing misses. Robotic testing confirmed there's an uptick in tighter spin rates across the entire face, especially in the high toe section. The result is a tighter carry-distance delta for high toe misses. **(2)** The carry-distance delta between center and high toe went from 12 yards (when averaging all three TSi models) to nine yards with TSR. This improvement can be attributed to the tighter spin rates we saw during testing. In layman's terms, it means you can miss the center and not have to worry about seeing a significant distance drop-off from this common mishit location. **(3)** TSR and TSi produced nearly identical ball speed numbers on center strikes, but ball speed increased almost 1 mph on misses around the other eight points tested on the face—a positive sign for inconsistent golfers.

Hybrids

Titleist
TSR3

TSR3

$349 / 13.5°, 15°, 16.5°, 18°

ADJUSTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE

Titleist
TSR1

TSR1

$299 / 20°, 23°, 26°, 29°

A WOOD-LIKE PROFILE WITH A PLETHORA OF PURPOSES

Titleist
TSR2

TSR2

$299 / 18°, 21°, 24°

A LONGER BLADE LENGTH FOR MORE BALL SPEED

Rounding out the lineup is the latest addition: TSR1. At roughly 40 grams lighter than a standard driver, the TSR1 driver is exactly what you're thinking—a lightweight product designed for slower to moderate swing speeds for golfers who want to pick up more distance (and launch) without making significant modifications to their swing.

Instead of blowing up TSi1 and starting over, Titleist made incremental changes to TSR1, beginning with a new multi-plateau face that originally debuted with TSR2, TSR3 and TSR4. The new variable thickness construction builds the springy face inward to create a constant CT measurement across the entire surface.

When combined with its aerodynamic shape, Titleist saw an increase of 1.5 mph of club speed during robotic testing, which translates to an additional 0.75 mph of ball speed.

With a higher crown than other drivers in Titleist's lineup, the CG naturally wants to go higher. In this case, the higher CG is almost perfectly centered with the face while still remaining deep to induce a high launch. (Compared to the other TSR models, the CG on TSR1 is 3mm [TSR2], 4.5mm [TSR3] and 6mm [TSR4] deeper.)

"By moving the CG higher, it allowed us to strengthen loft, maintain spin and get some ball speed," says Stephanie Luttrell, Titleist's director of metalwood development. "It's really a fine-tuning of the design."

Keeping the CG centered and pushing it deep within the head made it possible to retain some semblance of a draw bias, something golfers have come to expect from lightweight products. Just don't call TSR1 a run-of-the-mill draw-biased driver.

"[The CG] is what differentiates TSR1 versus those draw-biased products in the marketplace," Luttrell says. "It's unique in that it's not a specific draw product, but it's really targeted toward optimizing launch, speed, spin and distance for the slower swing speed player."

TSR fairway woods

The most interesting element of the new weight position is that, even when placing the weight in the more forward location, the TSR2 still has a higher MOI than the previous version thanks to other weight savings around the head (as previously mentioned). This results in a lower and deeper center of gravity to increase launch and stabilize spin for consistent results shot after shot.

For the TSR3, the engineers took the chassis of the previous TSi3 and improved on every element of the design to enhance performance.

The most obvious visual design feature is the expanded SureFit weight track on the sole, which offers greater side-to-side adjustment leading to finer tuning for feel and ballflight. This came directly from feedback provided by Titleist fitters

CLUBTEST 2023

Proving Ground

Zephyr Melton, GOLF.com Assistant Editor
Handicap: 3.8

Goals: Get more consistency out of the top end of my bag (long irons and woods).

I work in golf, but my gear knowledge has always been seriously lacking. When it comes to gear, I might be the least knowledgeable single-digit handicap in the industry. But there's one thing I do know: A proper fitting can significantly improve your game.

It didn't take long for my fitting at the Titleist Performance Institute (p. 26) to prove as much. After a few swings with the Titleist T200 irons—and tinkering with a variety of shaft options—I immediately saw dividends. My ball launched higher, stayed in the air longer and landed softer than any clubs I'd hit before. Half an hour in and I was hooked.

The long irons posed another question mark in my game, but then Chris Baingo, my fitting analyst, had a novel suggestion: Why not replace them with hybrids? *Eureka.* Out with the 4- and 5-irons, and in with the 4- and 5-hybrids. Chris hooked me up with the TSi1 hybrids, which are a popular choice among LPGA pros. After a few swings, I could see why. They launch higher and are more forgiving than a traditional long iron, and they're geared for slower swinging players like me. I don't think I'll ever go back.

At the top end of the bag, we found that the TSR2 driver was the best fit for my swing. Not only was it more forgiving off the face than the gamer I walked in with, but it also had a much higher spin rate to help me keep the ball airborne longer. We paired the TSR2 driver with a TSR2 4-wood for higher launch and more forgiveness on longer holes.

The full-swing fitting was a treat, but the best part of the day was a wedge fitting with the one-and-only Bob Vokey. Coming into it, I thought I knew a decent amount about wedges. Walking out the door, I realized I knew next to nothing.

Bob and I cycled through numerous bounce and grind options, hit out of every sort of lie and tested just about every variable there is in a wedge. I deferred to the master, and, by the end, I had three new SM9 wedges (50.12 F-grind, 54.14 F-grind, 60.08 M-grind) perfectly suited for my game.

I may not be the biggest gearhead out there, but after seeing how much a proper fitting can improve your game, I might have a new favorite hobby.

Scan this code to buy **Titleist TSR** clubs at GOLF retail partner FairwayJockey.com.

TSR3

$299 / 19°, 21°, 24°

AN IRON-LIKE PROFILE FOR A STEEPER ANGLE OF ATTACK

> **"[The TSR1] is targeted toward optimizing launch, speed, spin and distance for the slower swing type."**

to improve fitting possibilities for each player.

From an industrial design perspective, the sole geometry and "graphic structures" of the TSR3 as well as the TSR2 have been minimized to subtly reduce ground interaction and help the club glide more smoothly through the turf. This isn't so much a factor of ground interaction at impact, but, rather, a feel thing for players when taking the club away on the backswing.

As for the brand-new TSR1, it's built around a similar lightweight design with a larger overall profile (180cc) than the TSR2. It's also 20 grams lighter than the TSR2, with hosel construction that helps push the center of gravity deeper to promote a higher launch with more off-center forgiveness.

Refinements to the overall shaping and weighting result in a 15 percent higher moment of inertia when compared to the previous TSi1.

TSR hybrids

Instead of messing with internal weighting, Titleist designers extended the blade length on the TSR2 hybrid to move the center of the face farther from the shaft to keep CG centralized. The result is an anti-left hybrid. Along with extending the blade length, the CG was moved deeper within the head to add ball speed and expanded MOI by 10 percent.

With a high launch and mid-low spin, the TSR2 profile is geared for the player who sweeps the club and rarely takes a divot. Titleist was also able to make the club faster through

Wedges

VOKEY T-GRIND

$179 / 58˚, 60˚

GEARED FOR GOLFERS WHO NEED A LOW BOUNCE OPTION

the rough by adding "sole relief pockets" around the perimeter that reduce the amount of friction and drag from light and heavy rough conditions, thereby smoothing out turf interaction where golfers need it the most.

Understanding that not every golfer has a shallow angle of attack, the TSR3 hybrid is made for a steeper angle of attack with an iron-like profile. Because this hybrid is a better-player offering, the blade length wasn't expanded, as was the case with the TSR2. Instead, offset was removed from the head—when compared to the TSi3—to achieve a similar anti-left design.

Tour winner Charley Hoffman acted as a sounding board during the creation of the TSR3, offering feedback on the things he and his peers wanted to see the most in the latest design.

And continuing with the lightweight, high-launch theme, the TSR1 features a larger "wood-like" profile that serves a dual purpose. The larger footprint is meant to be confidence-inspiring while allowing for a deeper CG to achieve a towering launch.

"Keeping with the increased demand for higher lofted fairways from players, TSR1 hybrids are the most 'wood-like' hybrids we have ever made," says Luttrell.

For fitting purposes, it's worth pointing out that the shaft accepts a .335-inch fairway tip and is a half inch longer than the previous TSi1. Longer and lighter generally leads to more speed and height, which is exactly what Titleist is going for with its lightweight hybrids. Ⓖ

> **"[The CG] is what differentiates TSR1 versus those draw-biased products in the marketplace."**

STILL GOOD FOR THE TAKING

Additional Titleist options

Scotty Cameron Super Select

$449

Paint fill is almost nonexistent on Super Select to give it a clean look. But there's a design benefit as well. Cameron wanted to save weight from certain areas on the head, so he took it out of places like the neck and bombs in the cavity to net around 10 grams of discretionary weight, which was then placed between the heel-toe weights. For some golfers, the notch design might look familiar. It was first introduced with the popular Mil-Spec as a way to efficiently adjust loft and lie without negatively altering the neck.

Scotty Cameron Phantom X

$429

With a myriad of different heads and neck types, Scotty Cameron's Phantom X line takes adaptability to the next level. Each individual model provides golfers with slight but noticeable shifts in MOI, face stability and weighting, providing a tailored fit for mallet lovers of all shapes and sizes. Every model is precision-milled and constructed using stainless steel and aircraft-grade aluminum for improved perimeter weighting. The putter snuck its way into Justin Thomas' bag, where it has remained ever since.

Scan this code to read more in-depth reviews of all Titleist clubs on GOLF.com.

ANYONE CAN GET FIT

“I have been fit by numerous top 25 fitters and True Spec is at another level. Nothing is rushed and the fitter goes into detail to make sure you are achieving the right results. The fitter also spent time making sure I understood the technical aspects of the heads and shafts. Highly recommend.”

– **Tim T.**
True Spec Chicago

TRUE SPEC GOLF

BOOK A FITTING
truespecgolf.com
info@truespecgolf.com
(844) 729-8809

STUDIO LOCATIONS

ATLANTA | BAHAMAS | BEND | BEVERLY HILLS | BOSTON | CHICAGO NORTHSHORE | CHICAGO WEST | COLUMBUS | DALLAS-FORT WORTH | DENVER | GENEVA
JUPITER | MIAMI | MUNICH | NAPLES | NAPLES GRANDE | NEW JERSEY | NORTH GEORGIA | NORTH SCOTTSDALE | NYC DOWNTOWN | NYC MIDTOWN | OAHU
ORLANDO | PALM DESERT | PARIS | PHOENIX | PINE NEEDLES | RALEIGH | SAN DIEGO | SCOTTSDALE | TAMPA BAY | MOBILE UNIT

The 12th hole at the Valley course at Oxmoor Valley.

GOLF SOUTH

SPRING IS THE SEASON TO TAKE A TRIP TO THESE TOP-SHELF DESTINATIONS

›

An aerial view of the RTJ Golf Trail at Silver Lakes.

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL

Alabama

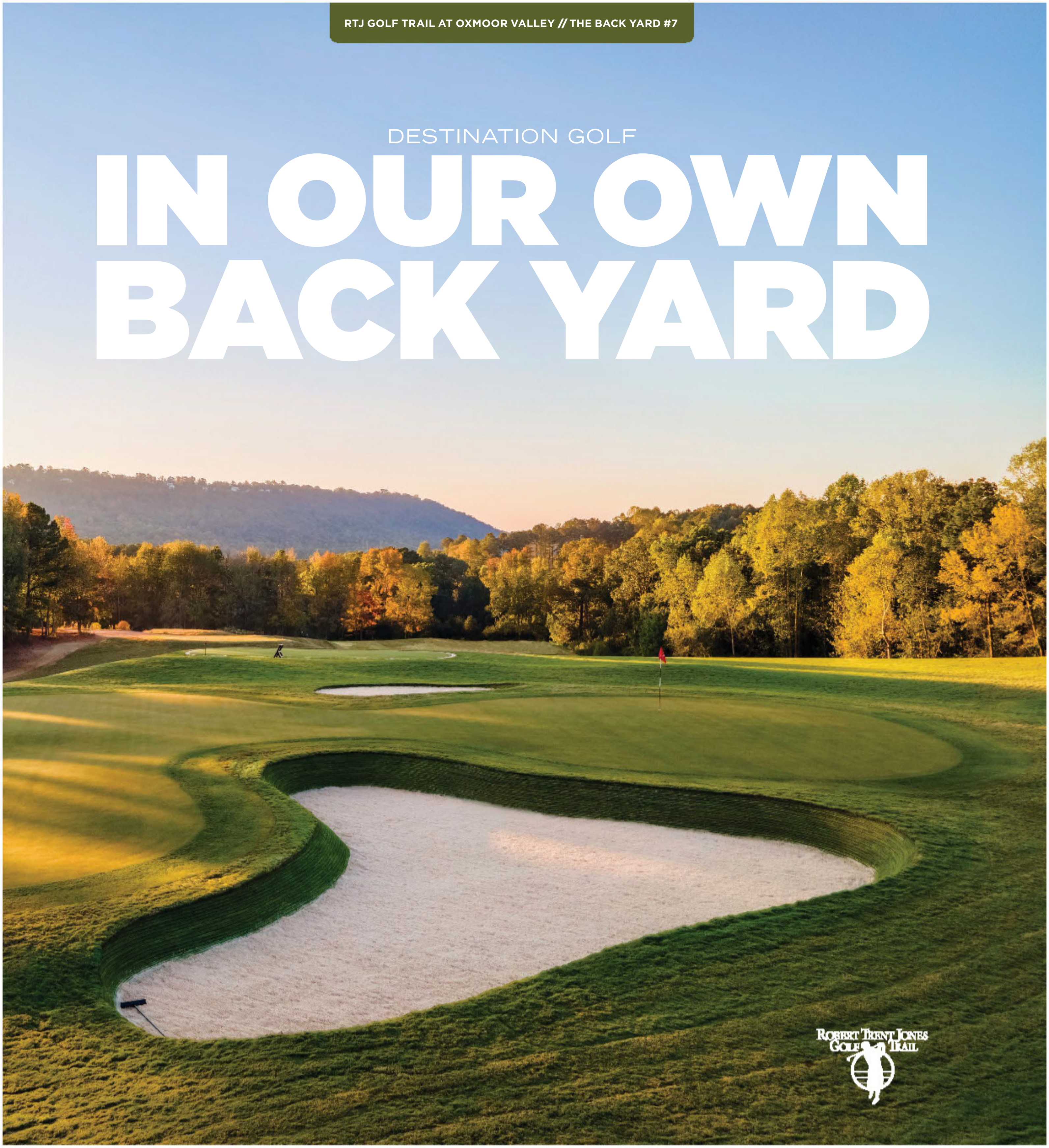
THE NUMBERS TELL THE story of Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. To start, 11: golf sites that wind throughout the state, from Huntsville to Dothan, Mobile to the Anniston-Gadsden area, Birmingham to Muscle Shoals. Next, 30: That's how many years the Trail has offered some of the country's best public golf. Finally, 1: It's indeed one perfect destination for golfers of all skill levels.

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail includes Cambrian Ridge (Greenville), Capitol Hill (Prattville), Grand National (Auburn-Opelika), Hampton Cove (Huntsville), Highland Oaks (Dothan), The Lakewood Club (Point Clear), Magnolia Grove (Mobile), Oxmoor Valley (Birmingham), Ross Bridge (Hoover), Silver Lakes (Anniston-Gadsden) and The Shoals (Muscle Shoals). There's something for everyone, with the possibility of playing two in the same day easily, perhaps starting at The Lakewood Club, then heading to Magnolia Grove; or playing a morning round at Cambrian Ridge, then an afternoon round at Capitol Hill. The Shoals to Hampton Cove, perhaps?

One of the Trail's attractions is the ability to map out a variety of routes and discovering that each one, while having similarities in style and customer service, has a personality all its own. On the opening hole at the Judge course at Capitol Hill, players will find a beautiful view of the Alabama River to the right from a breathtaking, elevated tee that sets the tone for a round to remember. The courses at Silver Lakes are set in a beautiful sanctuary of woods, water and wetlands with spectacular views of the Appalachian foothills. Last year, the Short Course at Oxmoor Valley was redesigned and transformed into The Back Yard, a nine-hole course covering just 14 acres, designed for an easy, casual walk wrapped in an inviting social setting.

And the Trail isn't just about golf. There are also eight resorts complete with luxurious rooms, spas, restaurants and inviting, relaxing atmospheres, including The Grand Hotel in Point Clear, the Renaissance Ross Bridge in Hoover, The Battle House in downtown Mobile and the Marriott Grand National in Auburn-Opelika. On the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, they've got your number.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT RTJGOLF.COM


RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT OXMOOR VALLEY // THE BACK YARD #7
DESTINATION GOLF
IN OUR OWN BACK YARD
Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail

THE BEST GOLF YOU'VE EVER PLAYED IS CLOSER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.
Experience your choice of 11 different sites throughout the beautiful state of Alabama and save big on what *The New York Times* calls "some of the best public golf on earth."

Visit rtjgolf.com or call **800.949.4444** to book your golf getaway today.

The Cradle, a Gil Hanse-designed short course at Pinehurst Resort.

PINEHURST RESORT

Pinehurst, N.C.

THE CRADLE OF AMERICAN Golf. The St. Andrews of America. Whichever title is bestowed upon the iconic Pinehurst Resort, one thing is certain: Its golf is as good and plentiful as anywhere in the world. And after a decade of on- and off-course enhancements, the entire Pinehurst experience is better than ever—now and for the future.

While the resort has enjoyed an unprecedented new golden age in recent years, that era will continue with the early-January announcement that Tom Doak will design Pinehurst's 10th course. Located four miles south of the main resort clubhouse, Doak's routing is expected to open late spring of 2024, coinciding with the return of the U.S. Open to Pinehurst No. 2. With natural ridgelines, intriguing landforms, towering longleaf pines, streams and ponds, Doak envisions a course that complements the resort's other courses through its contrasts.

In 2020, Pinehurst's legacy in the game was further solidified when the USGA named Pinehurst as the U.S. Open's first Anchor Site. In addition to building a second USGA headquarters—Golf House Pinehurst—the USGA is bringing five U.S. Opens to famed Pinehurst No. 2, returning in 2024, 2029, 2035, 2041 and 2047. Last year, the USGA announced the return of the U.S. Women's Open to Pinehurst in 2029, marking the second time that No. 2 will serve as the site of the Men's and Women's U.S. Opens in consecutive weeks.

But Pinehurst is more than just No. 2. Among the resort's most recent enhancements is the redesigned Pinehurst No. 4 by acclaimed architect Gil Hanse, who went about bringing back No. 4's original sandhill aesthetic and authentic Donald Ross design elements. Hanse's first design at Pinehurst—The Cradle, a 789-yard short course—was on a smaller scale, but it is immense in its inspired devotion to the love of the game.

Whether it's following The Cradle, No. 4, the recently renovated No. 8 or even Thistle Dhu, a rollicking 18-hole putting course, players can relive the day's glories over craft beer and superb North Carolina barbecue at Pinehurst Brewing Co. or at one of the game's best 19th holes, The Deuce, located just steps from the 18th green on No. 2. Check out the North & South Bar, a stylish whiskey and bourbon bar with more than 70 high-quality spirits, including a special blend from Woodford Reserve made specifically for Pinehurst.

With its many fun and unique additions, Pinehurst more than ever is a golf oasis worthy of an annual pilgrimage.

Tom Doak, newly hired to build Pinehurst's 10th course.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 855-235-8507
VISIT PINEHURST.COM

Matt Gibson/Pinehurst Resort

HAPPY
HOURS
@chasingfowlphotography

HAPPEN HERE.

Not every memorable moment requires a grandstand… or even a full set of clubs. Play The Cradle and Thistle Dhu when you experience Pinehurst, home of the 2024 U.S. Open®.

pinehurst.com (877) 302-4532

PINEHURST.
1895

A view from on high of the 10th hole at Bayside Resort, a Jack Nicklaus Signature course, with the Ocean City skyline beyond.

OCEAN CITY GOLF GETAWAY

Ocean City, Md.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR the top tier of mid-Atlantic golf destinations, your search begins and ends in Ocean City, Maryland. This bustling resort town features a wealth of championship golf at exceptional value. Beyond its acclaimed fairways and greens, there are abundant outdoor activities, including world-class fishing here in the "White Marlin Capital of the World." Dining options abound, and accommodations are likewise available to meet any needs, wants or budget. Temperate weather means that Ocean City, while famously a summertime mecca, can be enjoyed year-round, and indeed the OC welcomes upward of eight million visitors annually. All this, and Ocean City is a tap-in to reach, just a half-day's drive from many major Northeast locales.

For a wonderfully self-contained destination, Ocean City features a vast array of golf. A total of 17 championship courses grace the area, from a host of A-list design talent. A Jack Nicklaus Signature layout, Bayside Resort, has earned its place in the "Top 100 You Can Play" list, as has Arthur Hills' Links at Lighthouse Sound GC. Pete and P.B. Dye, Robert Trent Jones Sr., Dr. Michael Hurdzan and Jim Furyk are among the other leading names to have planted their flags at Ocean City, with many of the local layouts established fixtures in "best in state" rankings. Longtime OC visitors know, and first-timers will find, that excellent course conditions come with the territory.

Ocean City's longtime tagline is "Great Golf Is Just the Beginning," and it's true: There are a myriad of things to do and places to see before or after the day's final putt. A world-renowned three-mile boardwalk flush with year-round activities and events highlights Ocean City's 10 miles of glorious sandy beach, with water activities galore. The vibrant food scene features a great mix of upscale and down-home restaurants to choose from, and nightlife is equally happening. When it comes time for your head to hit the pillow, it will be at exactly the kind of place you want, whether that's first-class oceanfront accommodations—condos or five-star luxury hotels where you're lulled to bed by the gentle waves—or something more budget-centric.

The interactive OceanCityGolf.com website makes planning and booking this delightful golf getaway as easy as an ocean breeze. There you'll find spring and fall Stay-and-Play packages that include two nights' stay and three rounds of golf starting at only $199 per person weekdays and $219 weekends. Superior quality and variety on and off the course, plus superior value: Ocean City truly has it all for golfers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

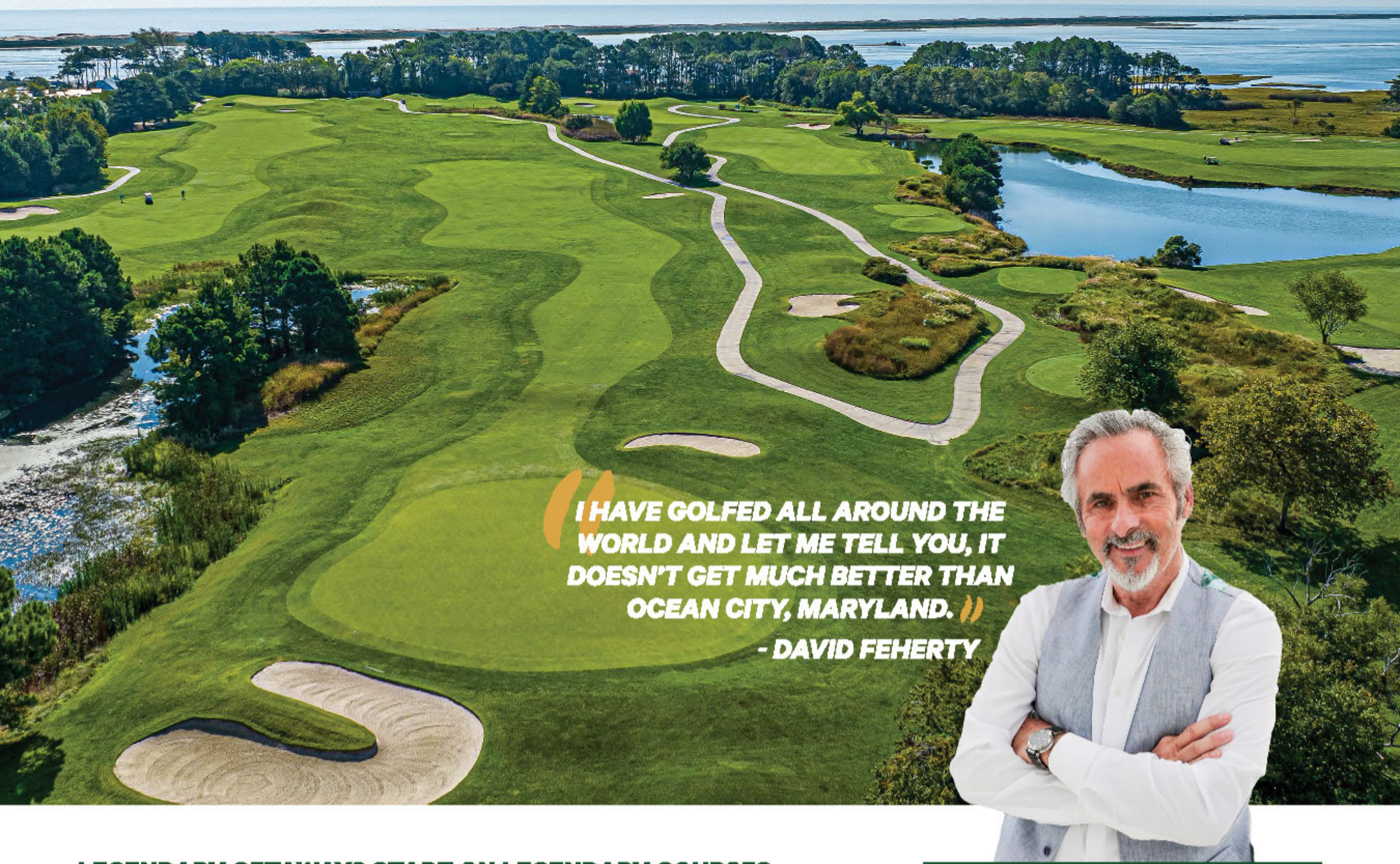
CALL 800-4-OC-GOLF (462-4653)

VISIT OCEANCITYGOLF.COM

IT'S NOT JUST A GOLF DESTINATION.

It's a natural wonder.

OC Ocean City MD


"I HAVE GOLFED ALL AROUND THE WORLD AND LET ME TELL YOU, IT DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND."
- DAVID FEHERTY

LEGENDARY GETAWAYS START ON LEGENDARY COURSES.

Ocean City, Maryland is home to 17 championship courses designed by legends of the game like Jack Nicklaus, Arthur Hills, and Pete Dye, to name a few. Natural dunes. Spectacular coastal views and vistas. Meticulously manicured greens. And even the first certified Audubon Sanctuary in Maryland. These are just a sample of the breathtaking features of our many courses, all within quick driving distance of one another. Celebrated by Golfweek, Golf Digest and more.

And whether you're sneaking in a quick round on family vacation or going all-in on a golf getaway, our elevated dining, beautiful beaches and buzzing boardwalk will keep the whole crew entertained off course.

GET YOUR GOLF ON.

BOOK YOUR TEE TIME!

MARYLAND'S Coast
VisitMarylandsCoast.org

VISIT OCEANCITYGOLF.COM | 1-800-4OC-GOLF (462-4653)

Maryland
OCEAN CITY MARYLAND

(800) 4-OC-GOLF
OC GOLF
www.OceanCityGolf.com

ANYONE CAN GET FIT

As the world's premier brand agnostic club fitter, True Spec Golf offers a matrix of more than 50,000 premium clubhead and shaft combinations geared to optimize your game. Combine that with certified master fitters, builders and cutting-edge launch monitor technology, and you'll agree that getting "True Spec fit" is a no brainer.

TRUE SPEC GOLF

BOOK A FITTING

truespecgolf.com
info@truespecgolf.com
(844) 729-8809

TRUE SPEC GOLF
TRUE SPEC GOLF

STUDIO LOCATIONS

ATLANTA | AUSTRALIA | BAHAMAS | BEND | BEVERLY HILLS | **BOSTON** | **CHICAGO NORTH SHORE** | CHICAGO WEST | COLUMBUS | DALLAS-FORT WORTH | DENVER
GENEVA | JUPITER | MIAMI | MUNICH | NAPLES | **NAPLES GRANDE** | **NEW JERSEY** | **NORTH GEORGIA** | NORTH SCOTTSDALE | NYC DOWNTOWN
NYC MIDTOWN | OAHU | ORLANDO | PALM DESERT | PARIS | **PHOENIX** | **PINE NEEDLES** | **RALEIGH** | SAN DIEGO | SCOTTSDALE | TAMPA BAY | MOBILE UNIT

Lessons

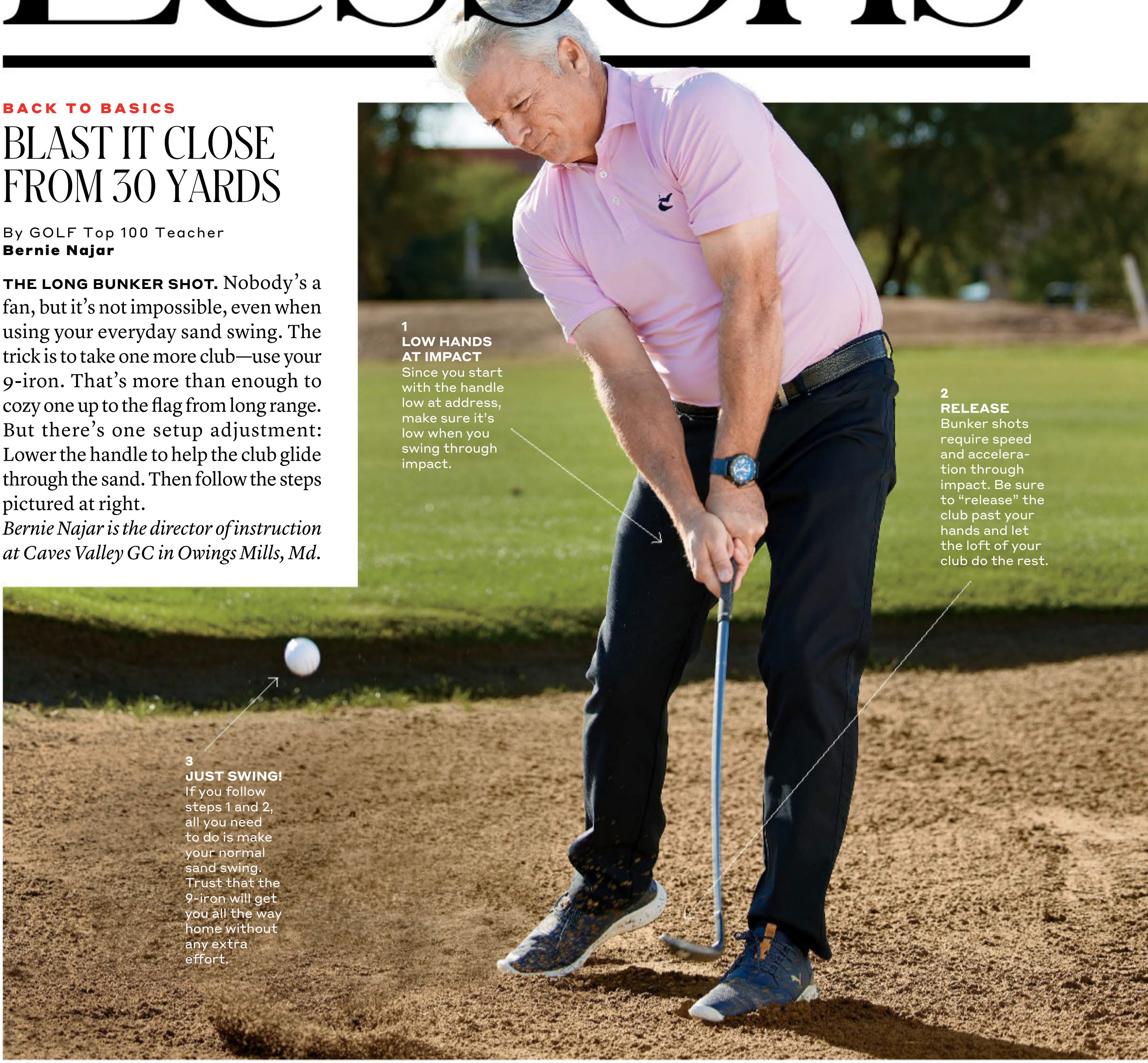
BACK TO BASICS

BLAST IT CLOSE FROM 30 YARDS

By GOLF Top 100 Teacher
Bernie Najar

THE LONG BUNKER SHOT. Nobody's a fan, but it's not impossible, even when using your everyday sand swing. The trick is to take one more club—use your 9-iron. That's more than enough to cozy one up to the flag from long range. But there's one setup adjustment: Lower the handle to help the club glide through the sand. Then follow the steps pictured at right.

Bernie Najar is the director of instruction at Caves Valley GC in Owings Mills, Md.

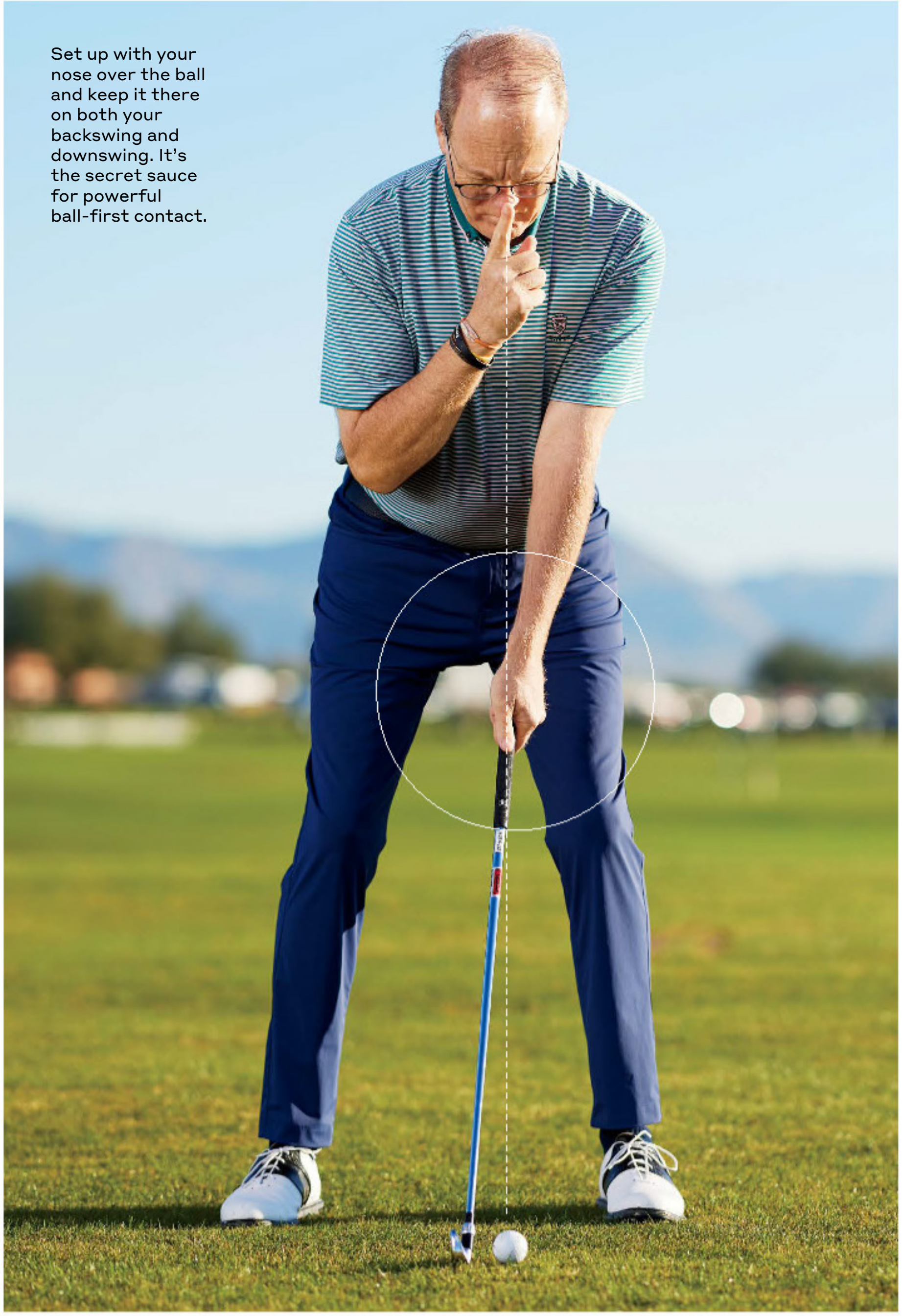


1
LOW HANDS AT IMPACT
Since you start with the handle low at address, make sure it's low when you swing through impact.

2
RELEASE
Bunker shots require speed and acceleration through impact. Be sure to "release" the club past your hands and let the loft of your club do the rest.

3
JUST SWING!
If you follow steps 1 and 2, all you need to do is make your normal sand swing. Trust that the 9-iron will get you all the way home without any extra effort.

Stephen Denton



Set up with your nose over the ball and keep it there on both your backswing and downswing. It's the secret sauce for powerful ball-first contact.

TRY THIS!

Follow Your Nose

By GOLF Top 100 Teacher
Don Sargent

Compressing the ball—that's the goal of any iron shot. You'll get distance and shot-stopping spin like you won't believe. The trick is to hit the ball first and the ground second. Here's how.

1. Adjust your setup
From a regular lie, make sure that 65 percent of your weight is over your front foot and—most important—your nose is directly over the ball. (You'll see why that's important in a second.)

2. Avoid swaying
As you swing the club to the top, keep your nose on top of the ball, like it was at address. Many weekend players tend to move their head (and nose) off the ball. Fact: Your swing will almost always bottom out under your nose, so, when you move it behind the ball like you do when you sway, you're just asking for ground-first contact. Not good.

3. Keep your nose on top
Start down by pushing forward with your back foot, keeping your nose over the ball. Instant compression!

Don Sargent is the director of golf instruction at Scioto CC in Columbus, Ohio.

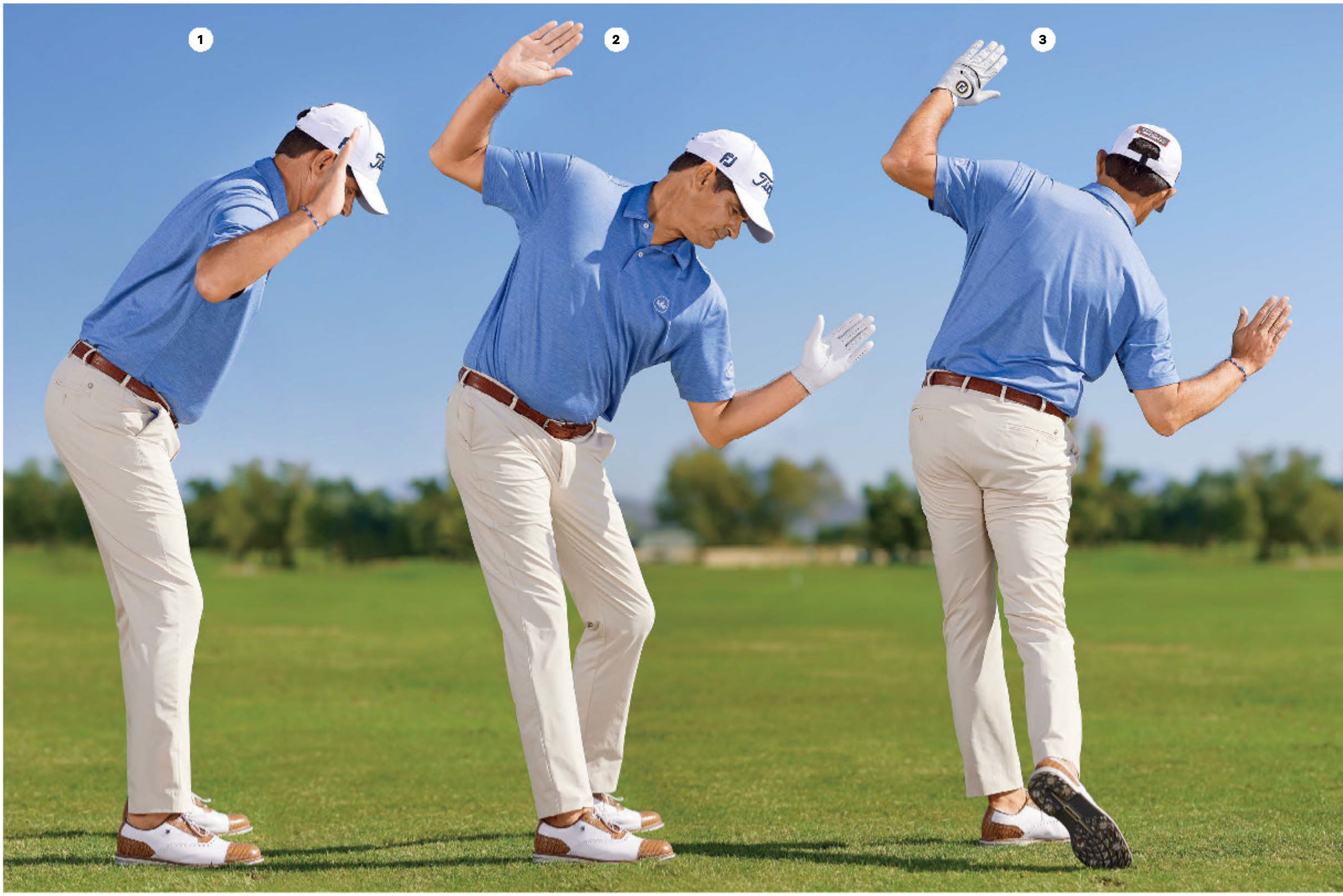
THE ETIQUETTEIST: THREE WAYS TO PLAY "NICE"

DON'T THROW IT!
Chunking a chip might tempt you to hurl your wedge into the next zip code. Don't. One, it's a bad look, even worse than the shot; two, it's dangerous; and three, you might lose the club (not to mention a few friends).

LOVE THE COURSE
That means raking bunkers, filling divots and fixing ball marks. *Always.* Yes, there's a slight learning curve for each technique, but you don't need $1,000 lessons from Butch Harmon to show you the way.

HONOR THE CODE
We get your love of hoodies and joggers, but, for those clubs that require you to wear something more traditional, we refer you to that old Nike slogan: Just do it. Fighting for your right to denim is not a hill worth dying on.
—*Josh Sens*

Left: Stephen Denton (3); Left bottom: John G. Zimmerman/Sports Illustrated/Getty Images; Right: Stephen Denton



POWER PLAY

LEARN HOW TO MAKE A POWER TURN

By GOLF Top 100 Teacher **Jason Baile**

A PROPER BACKSWING TURN goes a long way toward determining the success of the shot you're trying to hit. Primarily, your goals here are two-fold: loading up on your right side (to generate ample potential energy) and keeping your shoulders on plane (to generate a solid, sweet-spot strike). Here's a drill to help you achieve both. I call it "W turns."

Start by getting into your regular address posture without a club. Next, raise your hands and arms, keeping the bend in your elbows. You should end up producing the shape of a W (above). Make a backswing turn, keeping the W intact. There's more to it than that, however. As you rotate back, get your right hip to move back and up, so that it's higher than your left hip (center). This will help you "restrict" your turn, in a sense, so your shoulders remain on plane. (Not working your left hip up as well as back will cause you to swing too flat or steep.)

Finally, carry the W into a mock forward swing (right), rotating all the way through so you end up in a balanced finish with your chest facing the target or even pointing a little left of it. Here, you want to work your left hip forward and up, so that, as you reach your finish, it's higher than your right hip. This is the feeling of being on plane. Expect a heavy dose of shots that never leave your target.

Jason Baile is director of instruction at Jupiter Hills Club in Tequesta, Fla.

▲

1. Raise your arms while standing in your golf posture, creating a "W."

2. Keeping your W intact, rotate back, moving your right hip both back and up (not just back).

3. You're now on plane. To remain so, turn your W forward, this time by working your left hip forward and up. Use this drill as a warm-up or reminder if your swing ever gets offtrack.

GOLF HACK

No Excuses! Here’s How to Take the Perfect Grip.

By GOLF Top 100 Teacher **Sean Hogan**

To quote Ben Hogan, “Your best golf starts with a good grip.” But how do you get one? For starters, draw three dots on your glove using a Sharpie, as shown below—one on your heel pad, one in the middle of your index finger and one at the base of your pinkie—and follow these steps.

1. Open your glove hand, so you can see all the dots.

2. Set the top of the grip just below the dot on your heel pad and just above the one on your pinkie. Crucial: Your heel pad sits *above* the handle.

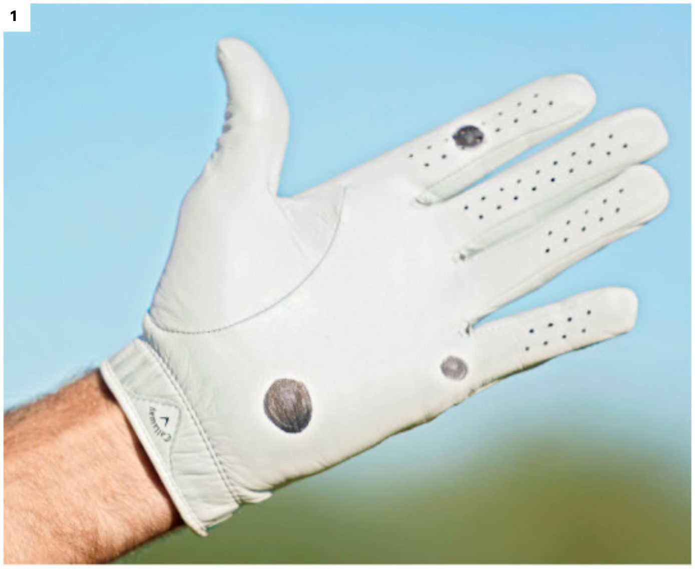
3. You’ll notice that, if you follow step 2 correctly, the grip will run through the dot on your index finger. Perfect! Wrap your index finger around the handle and close the rest of your glove hand around the handle without disturbing the grip’s position.

4. Add your trail hand to the grip and set the club in your normal address position. As a final check, look down: You should see two knuckles on your glove hand. (It’s not a bad idea to draw two extra circles here, as I’ve done in the photo.)

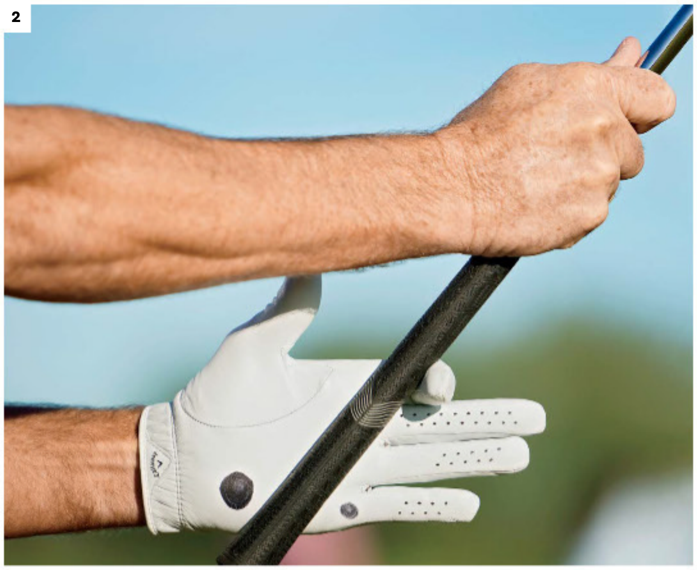
Connecting the dots like this in your lead hand gives you all kinds of leverage over the club. Just as it does when you’re, say, hammering a nail into a piece of wood, ample leverage frees up your wrist hinge and, most important, adds clubhead speed. Keep your dotted glove in your bag and pull it out once in a while when you practice. You’ll find it the best training aid money can buy.

Sean Hogan is the global director of golf instruction for the David Leadbetter Academies.

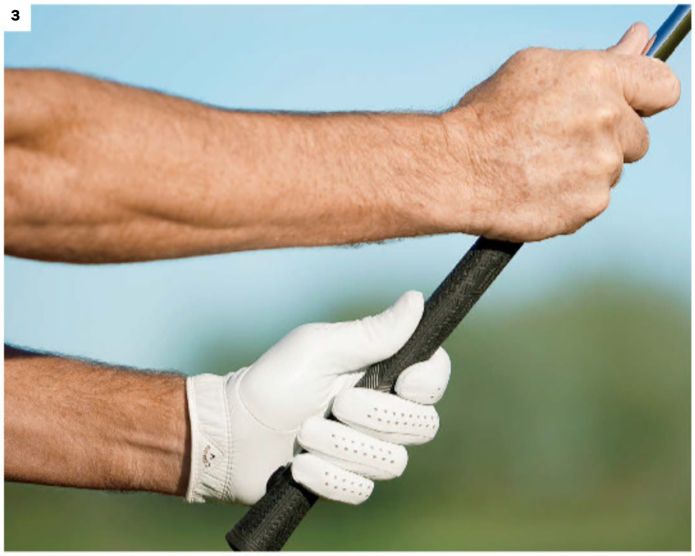
1



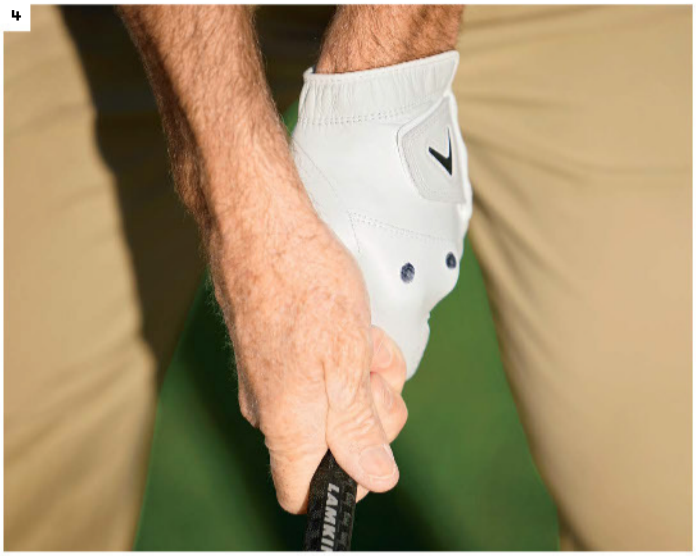
2



3



4



Left: Stephen Denton; Right: Mike Ehrmann/Getty Images

PLAY SMART

THE BENEFITS OF ALTERNATE SHOT

WE ALL LIKE keeping our own card, but consider the alternate-shot format when you can, for these reasons: **1. It saves time.** Alternate shot is played with four people but only two balls are in play. You get around at the pace of a twosome—ideal for when you're chasing daylight. **2. It forces you to use new strategies.** In alt shot, you have to consider your teammate's strengths and weaknesses as well as your own, forcing you to think a couple shots ahead. Fun stuff! **3. It requires teamwork.** Golf is inherently an individual sport, but, in alternate shot, you give up control on half the outcomes. Unnerving? Sure. But learning to work as a team will make you a stronger player when you're out there on your own. —*Zephyr Melton*

***Play Smart** runs three times a week on GOLF.com.*

SOUND ADVICE

THREE TOP 100 TEACHERS ON...

With **Tim Cooke, Brady Riggs** and **Trillium Rose**

	ONE THING TO THINK ABOUT TO FLUSH A WOOD FROM THE FAIRWAY.	ALL MISSED PUTTS SHOULD FINISH 12 TO 18 INCHES PAST THE HOLE.	WHAT'S BETTER: GRIPPING THE CLUB IN YOUR PALMS OR FINGERS?
TIM COOKE	There's nothing better than getting home from long range, right? The key here is **attack angle.** Picture a nail puncturing the equator of the ball, level to the ground. Then hammer the nail straight through at impact.	That's some pretty time-honored advice, but there's nothing wrong with finishing a foot short of the cup, either. **Whatever stops you from three-putting**—that's priority No. 1.	**In the fingers.** But *firmly* in the fingers. None of this "grip the club like it's a little bird" stuff, especially if you're a fast swinger.
BRADY RIGGS	It's important to remember that a fairway metal isn't a driver! For starters, **stand a little closer** to the ball. And, if Tim's tip above doesn't work, feel free to swing a bit more down and take a small divot.	**No!** Roll the ball so that on a make it hits the bottom back portion of the cup. At this speed the ball will roll past the hole more on misses on fast greens than on slow ones but still give you an easy come-backer.	When gripping any club, **use your entire hand!** If the handle is too much in your palms, you'll negate wrist hinge. Too much in your fingers, and, suddenly, you add unwanted tension.
TRILLIUM ROSE	The secret to clean contact in this situation is to keep the club on plane. If you're too steep or too shallow, kiss your chances of success goodbye. It's easy: Grip down on the club, make an easy swing and **stay in your posture.**	Twelve to 18 inches past the hole is a good concept, but it's pretty specific. You still must "feel" distance. I'd rather you **draw an imaginary six-foot circle** around the hole on lags, so the end goal is much more forgiving.	To me, the answer is a no-brainer: **Go with a grip that's more in your fingers** than your palms. It'll instantly give you a better feel for the weight of the clubhead and more control when you swing.

NEED SWING HELP? DROP A LINE TO OUR INSTRUCTION PROS! **ASKTHETOP100@GOLF.COM.**

Reggie Bush

ON THE GRIDIRON, REGGIE BUSH WAS FAMOUS FOR CARRYING THE ROCK. NOW THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NATIVE CARRIES A 6.8 INDEX.

By Darren Riehl

G: For you, what is one physical skill that has translated well from football to golf?
RB: Being able to flip my hips. Turning my hips and hitting through the ball with that explosion that you have to have in football, that short-distance explosion, helps you on the golf course. I believe a lot of football players have built-in attributes that are perfect for golf. You've got speed, strength, mental focus and the short-distance explosion.
G: Is there anything from football that doesn't *help?*
RB: The muscles. [*Laughs.*] They hold you back a bit.
G: On your journey toward becoming a single-digit handicap, what's the best piece of advice you've received?
RB: If I had to pick one, wow—I think the most important thing I've learned is that the clubface is king. If it's not straight, that ball can go a lot of different directions. I try to focus on my clubface and pay a lot of attention to my impact position. When you have a high swing speed like me, your dispersion can get out of hand if you don't focus on the clubface being neutral at impact.
G: Is there a favorite club in your bag?
RB: I just put a Srixon [ZX5 LS MKII] driver in there, and it's quickly become a favorite.
G: Besides your Srixons, what else do you make sure to bring with you to the golf course?
RB: My speaker. I always have my Bushnell Wingman speaker with me.
G: How has your gridiron competitiveness translated to golf?
RB: I think for retired athletes like me, golf is the logical next move. We're still in our prime years as athletes. I'm 37 years old and I feel great, despite some nagging knee injuries from my football playing days. I can't walk a full 18 holes, but, other than that, I can do everything. Golf has given me the platform to use my athleticism and continue competing.
G: What is it about golf that draws in so many athletes from other sports?
RB: What draws *me* in is the camaraderie. I play with a lot of guys now who I used to play with or compete against [in the NFL]. The camaraderie you get on the football field is priceless. You can't pay your way into it. Golf gives us some of that back. We're all athletes, and we all kind of speak the same language.

NOW DRIVING, REGGIE BUSH. Scan the code above to check out, at **GOLF.com,** the Heisman Trophy winner and Fox Sports football analyst's golf-gear setup and video of his swing.

Courtesy Srixon Golf

XXIO

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Experience the pure, lightweight, easy feeling of XXIO. Designed with premium materials and unmatched attention to detail, the new XXIO Woods and Irons are in a class all their own. Discover the effortless swing feel and enhanced distance performance you can only get with XXIO. Experience the Difference.

XXIOUSA.COM

GOLF EDITION
18
8
360
DRIVER
42
SCORE

TAG HEUER

MAKE YOUR MARK
ON AND OFF THE GREEN

TAG HEUER CONNECTED
CALIBRE E4 - GOLF EDITION

THE THRILL OF PROGRESS

Wear OS by Google

SCAN. EXPLORE.

TAGHeuer.com